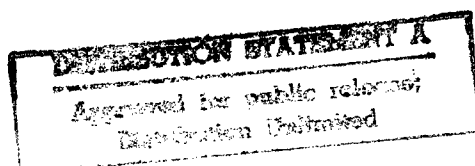


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JPRS-LAM-84-090

7 August 1984

Latin America Report



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7 August 1984

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

FORMATION OF OPEC-LIKE ALCOHOL CARTEL TO BE ANNOUNCED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Jul 84 p 46

[Article by special correspondent Rocco Buonfiglio]

[Text] Buenos Aires--Brazil, Argentina, Thailand, Australia, Philippines and some other Latin-American countries have begun discussions to form a cartel of alcohol producers (including anhydrous and hydrous alcohol and alcohol for special purposes such as the beverage and pharmaceutical industries), which may be announced formally in Sao Paulo next September, when a mission of Argentine producers is to visit independent distilleries in Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais, Parana and Goias, at the invitation of the Sugar and Alcohol Producers Society (SOPRAL).

The first step toward forming the cartel was taken here last week, when a delegation of sugarmill owners affiliated with SOPRAL met at the Sheraton Hotel with their Argentine colleagues of the Molasses Alcohol Producers Corporation Inc (Pamsa) after having visited two of the largest local sugar mills, the "Corona," in Tucuman Province, and the "Ledesma," in Jujuy Province, in the northwest region of the country. During the discussions held at the Sheraton, the apprehension of local businessmen about anything the Brazilian producers may do in the international alcohol market became evident.

For this reason, Carlos G. Garaventa, marketing director of Ledesma and president of Pamsa, after a brief description of the current situation of this market, quite favorable to buyers, cautiously invited the Brazilian businessmen to join forces to prevent a greater fall in current prices, now about \$24.50 per hectoliter (100 liters), compared to \$40 just 2 years ago.

The Brazilian reply was given by the managing director of SOPRAL, Luiz Gonzaga Bertelli, who proposed creation of a Latin-American association of alcohol producers between now and September, as a starting point from which to later obtain the support of Australia, Thailand and Philippines, the major producers outside of Latin America.

Next Tuesday the subject will be discussed at the meeting of SOPRAL management with its board of directors and, according to the managing director, there is not likely to be much resistance. Even the tacit demand of the Argentines that the international alcohol cartel remain under strict control of private enterprise met with a fortunate coincidence on the Brazilian side: Petrobras, according to

Bertelli, "recently expressed interest in turning Brazilian alcohol exports over completely to private enterprise, in order to make them more competitive."

Seeking Solutions

As the international alcohol market has not expanded much (it has fluctuated between 400 million and 500 million liters for 10 years now), the obvious solution, according to the SOPRAL director, is to promote adding it to gasoline used by vehicles in large industrialized countries. "But this is not easy," Bertelli warns, "as it faces the protectionist barriers erected by such nations. For example, in the case of the United States, a market penetrated at great cost by Brazil, local producers of alcohol made from corn syrup are now trying to hold on to their position by raising import duties. At first the duty was 30 cents per gallon, but they are now talking about raising it to 50 cents per gallon."

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CSO: 3342/133

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

PERU CONDEMNS BRAZILIAN ARMAMENT, NUCLEAR PLANS

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 11 Jul 84 p A2

[Text] Once again, undenied international journalistic reports speak of Brazil's nuclear projects. In effect, statements given by physicist Luiz Carlos Menezes to a Spanish wire service indicate that the Brazilian military forces are bent on the construction of an atomic bomb.

This accusation coincides with similar ones made by Professor Luiz Pinguelli, of the federal university of Rio de Janeiro, and by researcher Rogerio Cezar Cerqueira, who assert, according to issues of the daily FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, that Brazil "is studying means of obtaining technical capability for the production of nuclear arms and it is a sophism to say that it is not making efforts to build them" and that "they have not yet achieved the final objectives of technical difficulties."

Meanwhile, still according to accounts which are not officially denied, it is known that the Amazonian nation's navy reportedly is trying to produce a nuclear-powered submarine as soon as possible, and that the air force is carrying out identical experiments in the Aeronautical Technology Center (CTA). For such purposes, both branches reportedly rely on a large group of officers and technical specialists trained abroad.

All this results in an extremely serious situation, because it implies the use of enormous sums of money and other resources for reprehensible ends, at the very time that the Brazilian populace itself is passing through an economically critical period. And because Brazil—through its technological advances in the field of conventional arms, of which it is the sixth most important exporter in the world—is achieving a new privileged status in Latin America, especially in the Amazon basin, which brings about, beyond a doubt, a dangerous alteration in the regional strategic balance.

Therefore, encouraging an even greater growth of Brazilian war potential, especially on the part of the United States, can be interpreted as simultaneously fostering a pernicious South American arms race, besides strengthening the military rulers, under questioning for their refusal to return democracy to the nation.

If one recalls that the majority of our countries is signatory to the nuclear arms nonproliferation Treaty of Tlatelolco, we consider that it is up to Brazil to observe strict respect for the vital necessity of preserving Latin American security. Instead of throwing itself into armament adventures, it is much more positive, we are certain, to strengthen regional relations through programs designed to surmount peacefully the structural crisis that weights on us.

CSO: 3348/493

U.S. TRANSNATIONALS ACCUSED OF TRYING TO DOMINATE ECONOMY

Belize City AMANDALA in English 25 May 84 p 1

[Text] BELIZE CITY, Fri. May 25--Amidst severely conflicting reports as to the future of the Belize Electricity Board, particularly in this the industrial and commercial capital, one thing was certain for consumers here this week. Light bills had suddenly shot up 20 to 30 per cent, and our sources say the reason is that the "P" for fuel costs has been raised, without any official pronouncement.

This weekend's issue of THE REPORTER, circulated yesterday morning, claimed that mechanical work on assembling the 18 cylinder Ruston generator at the Magazine Road plant had been completed and that electrical engineers from British General Electric were currently in Belize City to check out the electrical system of the four megawatt generator which would "bring the Board's generating capacity to the level of sufficiency."

But reports earlier this week from our sources said that BEB Chairman Johnny Searle, Co-Chairman Ralph Fonseca, and a leader of Chinese businessmen here--Thomas Chee, were on their way to Taiwan to look for generators there.

The most concrete reports, however, indicate that negotiations have been going on between the Belize government and representatives of the U.S. transnational Caterpillar to provide two turbo generators to solve the city's power shortage within the next two months, as well as troubleshoot in two district towns where generator problems are developing.

Our sources even said that Caterpillar had found the financing for the Belize government from the Export Import Bank of the United States (Eximbank). Another source said it would cost Belize \$100,000 a month to service the new loan.

Indications are that Caterpillar negotiations are serious but the Energy Minister, Joe Briceno, is being opposed by the leftist section of Cabinet. And if negotiations are indeed serious, what about the Ruston 18 cylinder baby which Searle told Belize last year would solve everything?

We tend to think that there is a much bigger power play going on behind the scenes. The power play involves a monster move by U.S. based transnationals to penetrate and dominate the Belizean economy.

To begin with, Eximbank is described by the 1982 publication DOLLARS AND DICTATORS: A GUIDE TO CENTRAL AMERICA as a "leading proponent of U.S. corporate control of international markets" and as having "a history of using its financial resources with political motives."

Now go back to the fact that nobody can figure out what happened when Barry Bowen, the local fair-haired boy of Castle & Cooke and Coca Cola, fell out with new BEB Co- Chairman Ralph Fonseca. Barry's blockbuster wood burning scheme, razing Belizean forests to provide electricity for the country, had to involve private foreign financing. Possibly from an investment consortium like ADELA, in which interests are held by Caterpillar Tractor, Coca Cola, and Castle & Cooke, among others? How about the fact that Ralph falls out with Barry and surfaces at the Belize Electricity Board, of all places?

What is going on here?

Well, all this is over our heads. What is not over our heads, yours and mine, is that our PUP government in this election year is desperate to solve the blackout problem and will send any amount of good money chasing bad, and commit generations yet unborn to massive debt servicing, in order to win re-election.

We close with a quote from pages 11 and 12 of DOLLARS AND DICTATORS: "In the last 20 years, the banking institutions of the developed world, particularly the United States, have pushed financing on the governments of Central America like drug dealers pushing heroin. The international loans provide outside support for unpopular regimes that surely would be shaken without the quick fixes offered by foreign financing and aid. These funds flow to governments willing to open up their economies to international trade and investment and to governments willing to ignore or repress the interests of the poor in order to collect the revenues necessary to keep up their country's debt payments."

CSO: 3298/971

U.S. CHARGED WITH SUPPORTING PUP IN GENERAL ELECTION

Punta Gorda TOLEDO STAR in English 10 Jun 84 p 2

[Text]

THE PUP GOVERNMENT should be happy. The U.S. Government seems to be eager to bail it out when crisis steps in.

When our Treasury was low with cash couple years ago, and our Balance of Payments showed some imbalance, U.S. aid came to the Government's rescue.

Now we are facing General Elections, and people's complaints have reached a high pitch, as credibility in Government continues to decline. The Opposition Party, like in 1979 appeared a sure winner.

But there came an American Consul General who declared that the P.U.P. was not communist, and Fr. T. Wright told the people in Cayo that Shoman was a good God-fearing person, and of course because of these and other things, the PUPS won.

Now, just prior to election-time, Ambassador Barnebey and US-Aid officials are signing lots of financial assistance and heavy-duty equipment over to the PUP Government. Naturally, this will give the PUPS a boost.

But down here in Toledo, we are looking out to see if we can benefit from this assistance given by the United States to BELIZE, for unless we can share in the funds under the C.B.I. or for Tourism which is given to the other Districts, we may have to secede and look after ourselves.

CSO: 3298/971

PUP ACCUSED OF VOTER LIST FRAUD AS ELECTION NEARS

Belize City THE BEACON in English 9 Jun 84 pp 1, 10

[Text]

As the date for general elections draws nearer and nearer, the PUP has once again launched a massive voter list fraud, by hustling citizenship status for the thousands of illegal aliens from the neighbouring republics.

The doors for the dishonest exercise were opened when Attorney General Harry Courtenay announced his recent amnesty plan.

Since then, PUP executive committees have been hustling applications for aliens to be given permanent residency. From there it will be a simple matter for the aliens, with the aid of the party officers, to falsify their length of residence in Belize and so apply for and obtain citizenship papers in time to be placed on the voters' lists for the general elections.

The forms issued by PUP officers read as follows:
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

THE BEARER ...HAS APPLIED FOR ...AND THAT HIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN SENT TO "THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, BELMOPAN." AWAITING FURTHER APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL NOTICE.

The applications are signed by the Secretary of the PUP Executive Committee for the division in which it is intended to register the alien, and witnessed by a Justice of the Peace. We have given the wording of the party application above, because the photocopy of an actual application (reproduced below) may be too faded for easy reading.

Investigations by THE BEACON have confirmed that the Government has been planning this exercise for years. Soon after independence, the naturalisation (or citizenship) laws were changed for that it would no longer be necessary for applications to be published in the Government Gazette and a local newspaper, thus completely

party, and must be handled with alacrity.

According to an official source, applications for residence takes less than three weeks; and now citizenship applications can be completed in a couple weeks. It all depends on how quickly the police completes investigation. But again, political arm-twisting is bound to accelerate this process. Furthermore the cost to aliens to obtain citizen status has been dropped from \$100.00 to \$20.00. It will be easier on party accounts if it becomes necessary to pay for the aliens from campaign funds.

It is the duty of the Attorney General to investigate this matter immediately and thoroughly, if he is to satisfy the public that he is not a willing party to the massive voter fraud exercise.

eliminating any chance of objections by a private citizen.

Then came Courtenay's amnesty plan, and now applications from PUP party officers. It all ties up. For now civil servants in charge of processing these applications will know that they are being submitted through the officers of the government

CSO: 3298/971

SECRET PUP REPORT LISTS WAYS TO POLISH PARTY IMAGE

Belize City THE BEACON in English 16 Jun 84 pp 2, 9

[Text]

The PUP advisors and strategists have told Mr. Sylvestre, Leader of the PUP right, and Mr. Shoman, Leader of the PUP left, and Mr. Price, Leader of the PUP centre, that if the PUP wants to win the up-coming Town Board and General Elections, that the PUP must change its image.

They told the three PUP leaders this in a top secret report which was circulated only to Sylvestre, Shoman and Price at the end of May.

This report shows that the people of Belize are:

1) Totally against the use of armed soldiers to guard government buildings such as Radio Belize.

2) We are totally against the policy of former Police Minister, Lindbergh Rogers to give the army the same powers as the police.

3) We are totally against having the Police Tactical force being used as an instrument of terror to terrorise and frighten ordinary citizens into towing the government line.

4) We are totally against the taking away of the people's right to express their grievances against high headed government action by public meeting, public demonstration, and picketing.

5) That the majority of people canvassed were frightened by the action of the PUP government in 1981 which attempted to force civil servants, merchants, teachers, technical and professional people and ordinary citizens into accepting the Heads of Agreement by declaring a state of emergency and bringing armed soldiers onto the streets; and by threatening to impose harsh fines and imprisonment on the people in order to force them to accept this infamous document.

The hard-hitting PUP confidential report goes on to state and I quote, "The outster of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs and Defence, C. L. B. Rogers from the Cabinet by the militant and doctrinaire, even rabid left wing of the party, and the abortive and clumsily executed attempt to

force Minister of Energy and Communications and Fred Hunter, Minister of Works out of the inner Cabinet, and to gave them less important ministries could not have come at a worst time, and could not have been more badly executed." The confidential PUP report also blasts the incompetence, inefficiency and wastefulness of the former Minister of Energy, Sylvestre and the present Minister of Energy Mr. Elijio Briceno.

In its recommendation to the leaders of the three factions in the Cabinet (Sylvestre, Shoman and Price), the report advises them that there is no point in trying to conceal from the public the fact that the government does not have enough money to run the country. The BDF and the Tactical Force have been used by government to harass and intimidate citizens in the past. That there was no point in telling the people that the Electricity Board was not suffering from acute cash shortage. That there was no point trying to hide from the people that the government was looking at the possibility of trial without jury in all criminal cases. That there was no point in denying that under the new Belize Constitution, a citizen can be held by the Police for up to 72 hours without any legal recourse. That there was no use denying the fact that under the new Belize Constitution a man acquitted of murder or other high crimes can be retried again for the same offence.

The report is startling for its frankness and is the result of private discussions with a wide cross section of the electorate over the past 5 months. The three PUP leaders have accepted the report and a party campaign is now being organised to whitewash the issues of:

1. brutality by BDF and Tactical Force;
2. the nightmarish image of Sgt. Tablada and his boys;
3. the stopping and searching of people at road blocks without proper warrants;
4. the failure to discuss the electricity problems frankly and truthfully;
5. government's failure to promise amendment of the constitution to entrench the right of trial by jury and the finalisation of a verdict of acquittal.

One can now expect to see these matters being dealt with fully in the PUP weekly newspapers.

CSO: 3298/971

PRICE PLANS TO RAISE TAXES DETAILED IN PARLIAMENT

Belize City AMANDALA in English 15 Jun 84 p 1

[Text]

BELMOPAN, Fri. June 15

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance George Cadle Price told the House of Representatives this morning that he intends to raise taxes on various goods and services in order to accumulate \$15 million more in revenue over the next 12 months.

He said these additional taxes were necessary so as to prevent devaluation because Belize's financial situation is going to worsen. Mr. Price, who has been Belize's only Minister of Finance for the last 25 years, claimed that the new taxes were a result of discussions with International Monetary Fund experts, discussions which had not been completed in time for his March 1984 budget, according to him.

Mr. Price said Belize needs "more borrowing" and will be in a position to qualify for IMF fundings once the tax measures are implemented.

(1) He will raise \$3 million by hiking Belize Electricity Board rates by 15 per cent.

(2) Water rates will increase by 2 cents a gallon so as to provide \$1/2 million in additional revenue for the Ministry of Finance.

(3) BTA is supposed to provide \$1/2 million more through "increased efficiency."

(4) The Ministry of Finance will bring down pressure to collect \$2 1/2 million owed to it (by PUP big wigs?).

(5) Government will raise \$1 1/2 million by placing an additional .25 a gallon tax on gasoline and aviation fuel.

(6) Soft drinks will cost consumers .54, ten cents more, in order to give the government \$2 million.

(7) Beer will cost \$1.65, 30 cents a bottle more, to raise \$3 million for the PUP state.

(8) Price Escalante will increase the stamp duty on "non-essential" imports by 2 per cent, a move which is planned to provide an additional \$2 million in revenues.

All this is in addition to the increased taxes just three months ago in the 1984 budget.

Mr. Price and his wasteful, inefficient, and corrupt government (the public sector, the state) mean to have more of the fruits of our harvest. It is a form of extortion, but it is very legal.

You will remember that on

January 17, 1984, when Mr. Price announced his second Cabinet reshuffle in as many weeks, he quoted strange words from Isaiah 65: 21-22: "We shall build houses, and inhabit them; and we shall build vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. We shall not build, and another inhabit, we shall not plant and another eat."

Unfortunately for us, the taxed and repressed people, we build and Cabinet inhabit. We plant, and Cabinet eats. Que viva?

CSO: 3298/972

BRIEFS

CONCERN OVER U.S. AID--BELMOPAN, Mon. June 11--A document of offer and acceptance covering the first package of a \$1M BZE military equipment grant from the U.S. Government to Belize for the current 1984 fiscal year was signed here this afternoon. The agreement was signed by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defence Mr. Michael Hulse. Witnessing the signing of the agreement was Major David O'Connor, U.S. Military Liaison Officer in Belize, and the Commandant of the Belize Defence Force Lt. Colonel Julian Starmer Smith. The agreement for the first package of equipment covers clothing and footwear, camping equipment such as backpacks and tents, as well as medical supplies. The equipment is worth some \$176,000 Bze. Further documents of offer and acceptance covering the remainder of the \$1M military assistance grant will soon be signed. Ed. NOTE: One should not look a gift horse in the mouth, but skeptics are fearful that announcements of U.S. aid in armaments (instead of clothing and equipment) to Guatemala will soon follow. [Text] [Belize City AMANDALA in English 15 Jun 84 p 3]

COURTENAY ILLNESS--BELIZE CITY, Tues, June 19--Reliable sources say that Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. V. H. Courtenay was unable to travel to Japan in connection with the establishment of a Belize office there because his physician has ordered him confined to bed for two weeks. Mr. Courtenay has been attacked by a mysterious virus for the past few years. [Text] [Belize City AMANDALA in English 22 Jun 84 p 3]

FOREIGN EXCHANGE TAKEOVER--BELIZE CITY, Fri. June 22--The state controlled Central Bank of Belize took over control of all foreign exchange transactions as of this week Wednesday, June 20. Commercial banks may no longer sell foreign exchange to their customers without the permission of the Central Bank. One merchant told the newspaper he understands that the commercial banks can not sell more foreign exchange than they take in on any given day, and that the implications of this for businessmen and other citizens is that their foreign exchange transactions may be held up indefinitely and arbitrarily. This means quite obviously that black market activity will heat up, especially in American dollars, and that particular black market is controlled by foreign merchants here. [Text] [Belize City AMANDALA in English 22 Jun 84 p 1]

CARIBBEAN DIPLOMATIC TIES--Belize has so far established diplomatic relations with three Caribbean countries in an effort to develop economic and cultural relations with the Caribbean. Diplomatic ties now exist with Antigua and

Barbuda, Jamaica and Grenada. It is to be recalled that these 3 countries supported Belize in its move to Independence and the internalization of the Guatemalan dispute. It is also understood that the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Everal Waight will be appointed non-resident High-Commissioner to other Caribbean countries, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Christopher/Nevis, St. Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. [Text] [Belize City DISWEEK in English 8 Jun 84 p 3]

ALIEN REGISTRATION--According to police figures almost three thousand aliens and registered at the end of May, most of them Guatemalans and Salvadoreans. Aliens begun registering after the Minister of Home Affairs, V. H. Courtenay issued a policy statement declaring that as of May 1 1984, all aliens must register with the police and apply for a permit to reside in Belize either provisional, permanent, or refugee. All aliens must have registered by the end of July. [Text] [Belize City DISWEEK in English 8 Jun 84 p 3]

CSO: 3298/972

BRAZIL

EFFORTS TO CHANGE INTERNATIONAL TRADE REGULATIONS VIEWED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Jul 84 p 40

[Article by Brasilia correspondent Assis Moreira]

[Text] Brazil is demanding a "waiver" in trade; that is, it is asking that the United States, the European Economic Community (EEC), Canada, Australia and Chile withdraw the 49 instances of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy actions and retaliation in third-country markets against Brazil's exports, so that the nation may continue to travel the "via crucis" of foreign-debt adjustment, Tarcisio Marciano da Rocha, chief of the international staff of the Finance Ministry, revealed.

At the same time Brazil is redoubling its efforts among the industrialized nations, its major creditors, to put into practice the principles of the subsidy code of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) for developing nations. This would allow Brazil more flexibility of action, even in the field of subsidies, to cope with balance-of-payments difficulties.

Last year the dozens of Brazilian products that encountered protectionist barriers brought in about \$6.5 billion for the nation through exports to such markets. Sales could have been expanded were it not for protectionism, now adopted in forms that combine the GATT subsidies code with specific legislation, especially in the EEC and in the United States.

Brazil thus considers it necessary to create a new multilateral trade arrangement permitting developing countries sufficient access to markets to enable them to adjust their payments balances and, above all, assuring that this be done without the hindrances, disruptions and impediments of neoprotectionist processes or imposition of quotas and higher tariffs.

Until now the absence of specific parameters in the subsidy code has led systematically to its use as an instrument for protecting the industrialized nations in imposing safeguards to protect their domestic industries and allow them to adjust to the competitiveness of imports from developing nations. Brazil thus considers it essential that the GATT subsidy code not be applied as an instrument of liberal rhetoric serving only the protectionist interests of rich countries.

Studies by the Finance Ministry prove that whenever rich nations block access to their markets for Brazilian products these measures do not really benefit their

domestic industries. In practice, they will benefit Brazil's competitors. The problems involving Brazil's exports of steel to the United States, for example, have benefited exports of the same product from Japan and the EEC. In Latin America, the Chilean case stands out: the obstacles are so great that it is easier for a Chilean to buy transport material and automobiles from Japan and consumer goods from Europe and the United States than from Brazil. Italian footwear arrives in Chile without difficulties, to the detriment of the same Brazilian product.

Restrictions

The chief of the Treasury Ministry's international staff cites some matters in which Brazil will expand its efforts to make changes in international forums. First, that rich nations be convinced that they may no longer continue to take past market share of traditional imports as a basis in imposing trade restrictions. The decision of the United States to adopt quotas for special steels, taking past imports as a basis, worked a tremendous hardship on Brazil because until quite recently Brazil simply did not export steel. Today, however, it is one of the large world producers, for which reason the government urges that nations think not only about past imports but also about future prospects.

Another Brazilian concern is that rarely do the results of investigations conducted in the scores of cases (anti-dumping, anti-subsidies, countervailing duties, etc.) reflect a rational analysis of the real effects and factors of the subsidies. The U.S. Government recently decided that exports of steel from government-owned mills were being subsidized because the Brazilian Government increased its equity capital in such companies. The argument that state enterprises were suffering losses due to undercapitalization and price controls to combat inflation was summarily rejected.

Another trend that Brazil has been noting, and resisting, is use of the subsidy code to adopt domestic legislation, resulting in real nontariff barriers. In the EEC, this legislation has been used, in practice, to force importers to accept unrealistic price arrangements. They have tried to do this with Brazil in regard to steel, pig iron and textiles.

U.S. procedures have also caused protracted uncertainty for Brazilian exporters, to the degree that temporary measures are prolonged. For example, retroactive application of surcharges to products that are generally those of greatest weight in bilateral trade. For all these reasons, Brazil considers a trade "waiver" indispensable. After all, the developed nations are Brazil's largest creditors, and they must provide suitable trading conditions in order to receive payments on the debt.

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CSO: 3342/135

TERMS FOR FUTURE DEBT RENEGOTIATION DISCUSSED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Jul 84 p 26

[Report on interview with Affonso Celso Pastore, president of the Central Bank, in Brasilia on 4 July: "Pastore: Renegotiation Will Be Comprehensive"; name of interviewer not given]

[Text] Brasilia--In an exclusive interview with O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO and JORNAL DA TARDE yesterday, Central Bank President Affonso Celso Pastore revealed that the next renegotiation of Brazil's foreign debt will be on a multiyear basis, with terms (duration and grace period) and for a sufficient number of years so that the debt profile can be straightened out and "not leave any pitfalls for the debt in future years."

For the president of the BC [Central Bank], it makes no difference how Brazil raises new money in coming years, whether by means of new loans, as has occurred until now, or by arranging to capitalize interest. In his view, interest capitalization has more negative aspects than favorable ones, to the degree that it withdraws the country further and further away from normal market operations, "which ultimately is where the system will converge at the moment when, a few years from now, it has absorbed this problem of the debt."

Pastore explained that right now the government is interested in concluding the project that it will submit to the World Bank for approval in September. Then the IMF meeting will be held and, also in September, Brazil will initiate negotiations with the creditor banks. In setting up strategy for the 1985 renegotiations, the BC president reiterated that the arrangement for interest capitalization is irrelevant.

Capitalization

"If you need \$3 billion, for example, and have to pay \$10 billion, the result is the same whether you borrow \$3 billion of new money or capitalize 30 percent [of the \$10 billion]," Pastore explained. He added, moreover, that "the idea of capitalization is something where one must be aware that it must also be worked out between the creditor banks and the regulatory authorities of the countries where they are located."

Although not rejecting the possibility of capitalizing interest, he repeated that it is really not a very important decision for Brazil under present circumstances

and will thus have to be dealt with later. "We will wait for the proper moment to discuss it," he emphasized.

Interest Rate

Pastore believes that what is more important for arranging strategy for the next renegotiation is some idea of the course of the world economy and the behavior of interest rates: "We have to know whether the economies of the United States, Europe, Japan will grow or not in 1985, whether interest rates will rise or fall, as these are the important factors for us to determine how much money we will need to work out the problem of the debt."

Obtaining renegotiation for several years, that is, including the debts falling due beyond 1985, is something that Pastore is counting on as certain. "The number of years that will be included in the negotiation is a technical matter, which derives from the existing profile of the debt and existing concentrations of payments that will have to be made in the coming years. The ideal thing is to smooth out the debt so that the problem is not repeated in the near future," he explains.

In regard to negotiating terms, Pastore recalls that Mexico this year managed to get \$3.8 billion with a 10-year duration and a 5-year grace period and that now every country that is going to the financial market naturally will try to get the best terms. "Of course we are going to try to get longer durations and grace periods and smaller 'spreads' (risk premiums) and commissions. If you ask me how much, I won't tell you, because I don't want the banks to know our intentions," Pastore concluded.

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DECLINE IN YIELD OF CURRENT SOYBEAN CROP DISCUSSED

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Jul 84 p 40

[Text] Londrina, Parana--The decline in the average yield of soybeans harvested, from 1,793 kilograms to 1,642 kilograms per hectare, caused a 1.3-million-ton reduction in national output of the oilseed, estimated initially by the National Center for Soybean Research (CNPS) of EMBRAPA [Brazilian Agriculture and Livestock Research Enterprise] at 16.9 million tons.

According to Antonio Carlos Roessing, of the rural economics office of the CNPS, the lower average yields of the crop were caused mainly by cool weather during December and January in the states of Parana and Rio Grande do Sul, the nation's major soybean producers, but also by the fact that lower-quality seeds were used by producers in planting the current crop.

In the opinion of the CNPS economist, the reduction of 1.3 million tons--the equivalent of 454 billion cruzeiros, based upon the average price of 363,000 cruzeiros for a ton of soybeans--can also be attributed partly to the Central Bank, which, through Resolution 706, "freed the farmer from using certified seeds in planting. As a result of this, soybean farmers, some in order to reduce costs and others because they were unable to find certified seeds in the market, planted their fields with grain that in most cases had less than 70 percent germination."

As a matter of fact, estimated output for the current crop, if compared with the previous crop, would be greater than that of last year, when the nation harvested a little more than 14.5 million tons. But this increase was achieved only because of the expansion of nearly 1.3 million hectares in the area cultivated with the oilseed. In 1983 Brazil planted 8.1 million hectares to soybeans, with an average yield of 1,793 kilograms per hectare. It harvested 14.6 million tons.

Without Decline, Revenues Could Have Surpassed \$2.9 Billion Prediction

According to Antonio Carlos Roessing, data about the current crop available to CNPS indicate that the area planted to soybeans in the nation was 9.5 million hectares, for a final output of, at most, 15.6 million tons, or 1,642 kilograms per hectare.

The chief of the CNPS office of rural economics reported that, despite the low average yield of the current crop, the farmer who spent--including both fixed and

variable production costs--450,000 cruzeiros per hectare of soybeans is receiving a return of 550,000 cruzeiros per hectare, which represents a net profit of 100,000 cruzeiros per hectare.

Roessing believes that soybeans could have provided the nation this year with revenue greater than that which is being estimated, \$2.9 billion. He recalled that initial estimates made by various segments connected with soybean exports showed that the oilseed would provide Brazil with revenues of over \$3.2 billion. "Hence," the economist adds, "the decisions of the government, via CACEX [Foreign Trade Department], to shut off exports for a period and later to impose quotas caused much harm to the nation, because as a result of this policy we lost several clients to the United States and Argentina."

In regard to trends of supply and demand in the international market for soybeans and Brazil's possibility of increasing its share in that market--which is currently 15 percent--the CNPS specialist said that surveys made in July of last year by 200 soybean specialists showed that by the year 2000 demand for the oilseed would rise from 70 million to 160 million tons per year.

"As the United States is not in a position to expand its area planted to soybeans, Brazil and Argentina are the producing nations in the best position to supply this increase in demand. Brazil, for example, has a potential for planting 50 million hectares to soybeans in the Center-West region over the medium term. And, based upon the technology and infrastructure we now have available, we could, 10 years from now, harvest at least 60 million tons," Roessing explained.

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GROWTH OF NONFERROUS METALS SECTOR IN 1984 DISCUSSED

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 1 Jul 84 p 34

[Text] Brasilia--While the Brazilian economy as a whole has been caught in the tight grip of recession--output having fallen last year and likely to end 1984 without growth--one specific sector has coped with these difficult times vigorously, overcoming the crisis and growing right in front of our eyes.

It is the area of nonferrous metals, which, at the peak of the crisis, went from a deficit of \$244,994,000 in its trade balance in the year 1982 to a surplus of \$247,804,000 the following year. The outlook for this year is to surpass the revenue of 1983.

Optimism

This is the expectation of specialists of the National Council for Nonferrous Metals and Steel (CONSIDER) of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Among the nonferrous metals is one product that has decidedly become an attraction for investments of the private sector: extraction of bauxite and production of aluminum.

CONSIDER has concluded that the aluminum market will grow 5.5 percent this year, not bad for an economic context marked by crisis, tight credit and monthly double-digit inflation, CONSIDER specialists say.

While the steel, automobile and especially the capital goods industries had to invest less, postpone programs or operate with significant idle capacity, the profile of the aluminum sector has changed little from what it presented 4 years ago, before the crisis began.

The forecast at that time was to reach "by the middle of the 1980 decade a supply of 700,000 tons and, by the end of the decade, produce 1.4 million tons of aluminum," according to a CONSIDER specialist. When the crisis began, some projects were cut moderately and the redesigned profile was thus: supply of 600,000 tons by the middle of the decade (this year it will already be 493,500 tons) and by the end of the decade a production of 1.3 million tons of aluminum annually. The technicians consider this reduction "insignificant."

The projects cut back are ALUNE--in Pernambuco--which was to produce 220,000 tons by the end of the decade but, according to CONSIDER, is likely to meet only half

of that goal. Alcan, in Bahia, which was to increase its production by 90,000 tons, is likely to expand its capacity by 30,000 tons and the Brazilian Aluminum Company, of Para, which was to produce in this decade 160,000 tons, instead will only produce 40,000 tons of aluminum.

CONSIDER is very enthusiastic about these results, as one cannot forget the crisis the nation is confronting and which has drastically reduced other markets. It is an attractive sector for investments, according to government experts, because, beyond the market, Brazil has the world's third largest reserve of bauxite (estimated at 4.5 billion tons), abundant and cheap hydroelectric power, and domestic and foreign markets that are growing and solidly based.

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CSO: 3342/135

PETROBRAS CHALLENGES IN MAINTAINING OIL PRODUCTION LEVEL

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Jul 84 p 46

[Text] Rio de Janeiro--The big challenge for Petrobras, after having reached an output of 500,000 barrels daily as of last week, is to maintain the current level of domestic oil production and achieve self-sufficiency. To do this, it will be necessary, over the next few years, to discover annually new deposits containing at least 200 million barrels--which will depend above all on the response of the country's geology to the exploratory effort to be made.

So far, specialists are optimistic that they will be able to meet the needs for domestic oil production, which in the second half of this year must maintain a daily average of 520,000 barrels. The main reason for this optimism is the knowledge gained in the Campos Basin, currently the leading oil-producing province, which will continue to receive priority in the development program. In that area, new discoveries could occur in deep waters, as well as in more shallow waters, near the Rio de Janeiro State coastline.

Petrochemicals

However, some experts recommend that, as in the case of any country poor in petroleum, Brazil should use it for advanced purposes such as raw material for the petrochemical industry, rather than using it essentially for the transportation system. Increased reserves should be used to stockpile a nonrenewable resource rather than to convert them immediately into output, as has been occurring.

In Petrobras, there are technicians who have been recommending this for several years, without their words being echoed. They have always said that the nation's geology is not rich in petroleum and for this very reason reserves should be increased in order to save them for the future rather than burning them up in the present. That would require an energy policy that would drastically reduce the nation's dependence on petroleum, which has not happened. Were it not for the drop in fuel consumption caused by the recession of the last 4 years, Brazil would now be consuming 2,000,000 barrels of oil daily instead of the current average of 911,000 barrels.

Alternatives

Thus, at the very moment that the government is celebrating one of its few victories--early achievement of the 500,000-barrel-a-day goal for domestic oil output

originally set for 1985--it also exposes the other side of the problem, which is the lack of alternative energy sources to reduce dependence on petroleum. The programs for production of coal, ethanol (alcohol from wood), solar energy and biodigesters show very insignificant results and expose the weakness of the energy matrix created by the Figueiredo government.

Only the use of alcohol for motor fuel--and even this with the aid of subsidized prices for the consumer--can be singled out as an exception to the general failure of alternative-energy policy. Little has been accomplished to reduce consumption of diesel fuel, fuel oil and other petroleum derivatives.

Reactivation of the nation's economy, requiring greater fuel consumption, could quickly result in increased imports of petroleum, to the degree that the prospects for domestic production are to remain steady, at about 510,000 to 520,000 barrels daily, unless the government decides to pursue predatory use of reserves, which has not yet happened. In the coming years there will be a more pronounced need for an energy policy devoted to reducing the importance of petroleum and increasing the use of alternative sources. This is the recommendation that, in back of all the recent euphoria, Petrobras technicians have been making to the government, in the hope that at least this time they will be heard.

Promising Results in the Northeast

But hopes are not based solely on the Campos Basin. The coast of Ceara is now emerging, with highly promising prospects, as Petrobras has found a natural-gas deposit there in an area abandoned by a foreign company. Another important area is in the onshore basin of Alagoas, in the Pilar region, where a well is being tested that has produced a little more than 1,000 barrels daily. In the northeast part of the Reconcavo Basin of Bahia new discoveries are being made, guaranteeing not only replacement of current production in the area but also increased reserves in the nation's oldest oil-bearing province. Three more wells will be opened off the Para coast in an effort to find a commercial deposit, despite the good beginning of the Para underwater well 11, which has produced as much as 2,000 barrels daily.

Over the longer haul, other areas will be explored, such as the southern coast of Bahia, the coast of Espirito Santo and the Santos Basin, the latter upgraded since the discovery of natural gas by Pecten, a Shell subsidiary. In the largest onshore basins--the Amazon region and Parana--which together amount to over 2 million square kilometers, Petrobras intends to make exploratory investments at a later date.

New Records Unlikely

From now on, it will be very difficult for domestic oil production to make sharp advances, as occurred from 1973 through 1983, when production increased from 63 million barrels to 124 million barrels per year. Only the discovery of an important new province could change that prospect, but Petrobras technicians themselves reject that possibility.

In the technical area, without taking into consideration the risks of geology, two factors could contribute toward new petroleum reserves being incorporated into the

current level of 1.8 billion barrels. The first is the advance of seismic technology, which has been helping solve previously insurmountable problems. The new discoveries in the Reconcavo of Bahia and of natural-gas deposits in the Upper Amazon result directly from use of advanced seismic methods and more precise interpretation of subsoil anomalies. The second is the increased factor of oil recovery from reserves, which is to say, the percentage of oil that can be effectively extracted from the total existing in the subsoil. That factor is now about 30 percent, on the average, but could be increased by introducing new processes capable of providing a larger volume of extraction, since the nation's subsoil is estimated to contain 13 billion barrels.

But technical advances do not always move with the same speed required for production. Moreover, it takes 5 to 6 years for a new discovery in new areas to become commercially usable, depending upon the place of occurrence and its distance from centers of distribution and consumption. For this very reason, domestic production is not likely to develop very rapidly from now on and it will be difficult to reach new records such as those that have been a characteristic of production in recent years.

Uncertainty About Self-Sufficiency

Brasilia--Unless an oil-bearing basin is discovered in the next 2 or 3 years with potential similar to that of Campos, responsible today for over half the daily production of 500,000 barrels, it will not be possible for Brazil to attain self-sufficiency in petroleum, which plans announced by the Mines and Energy Ministry consider viable in 1993.

That is the opinion of specialists accredited in the area of petroleum, who term the plan, "Energy Independence, a Scenario for 1993," a mere mathematical exercise, as it mainly deals in extrapolations. They even believe that all the attention given to this study seeks only to help Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals in his efforts to become the vice-presidential candidate at the PDS [Social Democratic Party] convention.

Cals, who was one of the coordinators of Mario Andreazza's candidacy, did not get the political dividends that he had expected, as the interior minister is more inclined toward choosing the former governor of Bahia, Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, as his running mate. Due to his influence among Paulo Maluf's supporters, Cals could consider himself practically elected if he could count on all the votes of Andreazza's followers. For this reason, he has intensified his coordination and increased his trips throughout Brazil, while his public-relations staff in Brasilia nurtures his image as the "competent executive" and depicts petroleum as the major and only achievement of the Figueiredo government.

Takes Time

As a matter of fact, much of the credit for the record production of 500,000 barrels daily should go to former minister Shigeaki Ueki, as it was during his administration that the Campos Basin was discovered, on 2 December 1974. Although Petrobras had installed advance-production systems in several producing fields, it was not until the Figueiredo government that the benefits of such discoveries could be

reaped: domestic production increased from 170,000 barrels daily in 1979 to 500,000 barrels daily as of last Thursday, and 53 percent of that petroleum (265,000 barrels) comes from Campos.

From 1954, the year of its creation, until 1983, Petrobras discovered the equivalent of 3.9 billion barrels of petroleum. Between 1984 and 1993, reserves of 4.2 billion barrels would have to be identified, more than the total discovered thus far, including the Campos Basin.

From 1974 until 1983, 9 years after the discovery in Campos, no other basin with similar potential was found, although Petrobras has spent, during the administration of Cesar Cals, more than 80 percent of its investment budget on petroleum exploration and production. There are promising indications at the mouth of the Amazon and on the continental shelf of the states of Para and Maranhao but, so far, only indications.

It takes a long time for an offshore oil field to begin producing: Campos took 6 years, but the best results are only occurring now, 10 years later. The general opinion among specialists is that the mines and energy minister's prediction has a time limit if it is to be feasible. Unless within 2 or at the most 3 years areas are discovered that can support a doubling of current production, self-sufficiency is mathematically impossible.

High Cost

Another question raised about the program, which applies in a general way to the entire energy policy adopted during the Figueiredo administration, is that the Brazilian energy model itself, developed since 1980, as well as the plan for energy self-sufficiency in 1993, which is an extrapolation of studies made within that model, do not have social welfare as basic concerns. If successful, they will enable the Brazilian economy to function independently in the field of energy, everything else being expected to result from this factor, which in itself is not guaranteed, the specialists assert.

The best example of this is that, while the 500,000 barrels daily of domestic petroleum and the great performance of the energy sector as a whole are being celebrated, especially the steady reduction in consumption of derivatives, the national energy figures show that per-capita energy consumption in Brazil has fallen steadily during the Figueiredo administration: from 1973 to 1979 per-capital energy consumption rose 35 percent, while Gross Domestic Product was increasing 75 percent and total energy consumption was rising 52 percent; from 1979 to 1982 per-capita energy consumption fell 3.4 percent, while the GDP [Gross Domestic Product] was increasing 3.7 percent and total energy consumption increased 4 percent.

Looking at this trend in greater detail, we see that the output/consumption ratio in the industrial sector increased 3.9 percent during the last 10 years, while the agricultural and service sectors, which are less exposed to modernization of production techniques and measures for rationalizing energy use, drastically reduced their consumption of energy. The output/consumption ratio for energy fell 25.5 percent on the average in these two sectors, which sacrificed the most in the nation's adjustment. Rather than rationalization of consumption and more efficient use of energy, what happened was a severe reduction of consumption by repressing demand.

The program for energy self-sufficiency calls for investments of \$115.5 billion--more than the present foreign debt--of which \$56.7 billion will be for the petroleum sector, \$48.6 billion for the electrical sector, \$6.5 billion for alcohol, \$2 billion for producing firewood and wood charcoal, \$1 billion for coal and \$700 million for the program of bituminous shale.

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BRIEFS

TRADE WITH IRAQ--ABC--Volkswagen of Brazil has given Petrobras President Shigeaki Ueki--who left yesterday evening for Baghdad--various data about its production capacity, prices and characteristics of the Iraqi vehicle market. Ueki will negotiate with Iraq a new contract to import 160,000 barrels of oil daily and he intends to link purchase of 50,000 to 60,000 barrels to exportation of Brazilian products, including automobiles manufactured by Volkswagen. According to a Volkswagen source, "there will be no problem in reaching an understanding with Petrobras" if Ueki is successful in his negotiations with Iraq. The source noted, however, that the contract for furnishing the Passat to Iraq, still in progress, "is not included in the negotiations." According to the preliminary arrangement worked out, Petrobras will make the commitment to pay in cruzeiros the Volkswagen exports to Iraq. This credit will be used by Petrobras, in turn, to pay for the imports of oil from Iraq, which has a state-controlled economy. Volkswagen is currently fulfilling a contract to export 50,000 Passat units to Iraq. It has already sent a little more than 45,000 units and the expectation is that shipments will be completed in August. The value of this contract, including spare parts, is about \$300 million. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Jul 84 p 21] 8834

CSO: 3342/135

TRIENNIAL ECONOMIC PROGRAM PREVIEWED

Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 5 Jul 84 p 7

[Text] The summary of background for the Triennial Program for the industrial sector of the country included more than 20 billion pesos in profitable projects. Another study carried out for the same reason verified that the state enterprises can purchase their supplies from national producers even with a 36-percent surcharge without it harming the government coffers.

These are two main aspects contained in the Triennial Development Program that the minister of economy, Modesto Collados, will announce in the middle of this month. We have an exclusive advance report on this.

The work team consisted of representatives from SOFOFA [Industrial Development Association], ODEPLAN [National Planning Office], CORFO [Production Development Corporation] and the Ministry of Economy. It wrote a report planning the basic industrial needs to achieve new impetus for the development of the sector. It included the replacement of imports through increased purchases by state enterprises from Chilean producers, the strengthening of Pro-Chile and the application of a system to return export duties, an expeditious system that does not demand guarantees to obtain credit for development capital and revitalization of the free zones.

The results of a survey done in 800 industrial enterprises were analyzed. This included investment projects worth 20 billion pesos to be completed in the triennial period by the industries affiliated with SOFOFA. The effect on employment was considered "important" since the initiatives include very large economic profits.

The industrialists asked for structuring of the tax system to be considered in the triennial program. In practice this means making the existing differentiation of zero to 35 percent, the maximum accepted by GATT, official.

Another aspect of the study, part of Minister Collados' program, is the instruction by this minister that state enterprises give periodic account of the way they are fulfilling what was stipulated in the first quarter of this year as to purchasing from national producers.

This circular from the minister of economy reinforced verification that the state enterprises can accept up to a 36-percent surcharge in purchases without it harming the Treasury since the greater expense is recovered by taxes on the private enterprises that increase their production because of that increased demand.

CHILE

ECONOMIST EXPLAINS FAILURE OF FRIEDMAN MONETARY POLICY

Paris REVOLUTION in French 1 Jun 84 p 25

[Interview with Ffrench Davies by Nur Dolay; date and place unspecified]

[Text] Ffrench Davies is a "Chicago boy," as the members of the Chicago school, followers of Milton Friedman's monetarist model, are often called. Ffrench Davies, though, is a Chilean, so he can see the results of this "liberal" monetary policy at home. Our special envoy to Santiago spoke with him.

Question: The failure of the economic model used in Chile for the past 10 years is generally attributed to errors in its application. What is your opinion about that?

Answer: Criticism has tended to focus on two points: the artificial maintenance of the peso at a rate fixed in relation to the dollar in 1979, and the state intervention last year to prevent the collapse of the major banks. But if we look at the situation more closely, we see that well before the exchange rates were fixed and before the first signs of the bank crisis, the Chilean economy already had some big problems looming ahead. For example, since 1975 unemployment has never dipped below 15 percent; it has actually increased. The rate of investment has been very low. We should also look at what areas investments are concentrated in, and what types of activities they have promoted: in Chile it has generally been superficial activities that have grown, such as financing, marketing of imported products, etc. An incredible number of boutiques have opened and many people have switched to dealing in imported products. Local production has practically come to a halt. There has been a serious collapse in the industrial and agricultural sectors. But as there were no ways of holding discussions during this entire period, the matter became an ideological issue. Those who could speak out defended the model without taking into account the situation of the economy or the statistics that were available. Yet the situation was fairly clear: the bankruptcies

coming one after the other, without any new businesses being established, continued in a random sort of fashion. All this is not a phenomenon which just popped up in the last few years. It has been building up since 1973, and the reason for it lies in the very structure of the model itself: the sale of all public enterprises to the private sector; the state's adoption of a passive attitude which is supposedly neutral, instead of supporting or encouraging a certain level of economic activity, etc. This "laissez faire" attitude cannot solve problems in developing nations such as Chile. The market can't regulate everything.

Question: You claim that this model could not succeed because of its structural defects. But the creator of the model attributes its failure to deviations in its application. What are those deviations, which to date have never been seriously explained?

Answer: That's right, what are they? People who defend the model should have to explain this, shouldn't they? Let Friedman explain it! He was very enthusiastic about its application in Chile up until 1980. But at that time the situation started to change, when the first hard data on the Chilean economy began to get out. In fact, the problem had started in the 1970s, but the official government line spoke only of the "miracle" and the communications media, the radio, newspapers, and television, were all controlled by the government. The information which could have gotten through to Friedman was very limited. When the truth became known, he began to adopt a more distant attitude, but he never explained where there were deviations from his model. The reasons people in Chile give today--the fixed exchange rate and the intervention in the banks--were in fact only two errors highlighting the negative record of this model's use in Chile, for it hasn't worked ever since the beginning. Without ever investing, without ever producing, Chile has allowed itself the great luxury of consuming goods produced abroad, because the economic model advocates free trade. Why isn't the principle of free trade valid in Japan or in Korea? It has been used in Chile and in Argentina, but most of all, in Chile. The policy of fixed exchange rates has stimulated imports and has worsened an already bad economic situation.

Question: What do you think of the view that the technocrats applying this economic model act outside the realm of politics?

Answer: We can only say that about some of them. There are others who have been active in rightist parties for many years.

Question: Do you see contradictions between this ultraliberal economic model and the extremely authoritarian political system?

Answer: Of course, but without an authoritarian regime, it would be impossible to have applied such a model for so many years in a country like Chile. The level of social progress in Chile was very high compared with other countries in Latin America. Workers, students, peasants, and members of the liberal professions were all highly organized. The application of this model means the total omission of any social dimension in the nation, for it considers the economy to be the sole dimension existing in society. To be more precise, the model tries to reorganize society according to a certain economic concept. Culture, health, education, the university--everything is re-considered in terms of profits.

Question: Couldn't the Friedman model work in other countries?

Answer: I don't see that as a possibility in countries where industries need to be pushed. Maybe in very highly industrialized countries. The market works better there, and everything is already set up. There isn't a problem of creating or developing industries.

Question: What about in England? They have been using this model too.

Answer: I would say [it might work] in a country even more developed, for in England there are a great many problems, too.

Question: But you are from the Chicago school. How can you be against the Friedman model?

Answer: I'm not the only one who is. There are other economists from the Chicago school who also oppose this model.

Question: Last year the Chilean government made it known that it would no longer remain just a spectator in the economy, but said it would play a more active role. Do you see any such changes happening?

Answer: In reality, the pro-Friedman mentality hasn't changed. The minister of the economy himself said that the application of the model would continue. The changes we do see are coming about under pressure, in response to problems as they arise.

The intervention in the banks on the verge of bankruptcy is an example of this. Moreover, the people responsible for applying the model are more open to pressures now than they were before. Given Chile's economic situation, it is impossible to talk about a miracle now. This "miracle" which benefitted about 50 people doesn't mean a thing for the 10 million people of Chile.

CAMPUS UNREST SPREADS AS STUDENTS DEMAND VOICE

Santiago HOY in Spanish 27 Jun 84 pp 12-14

[Article by Odette Magnet: "Student Fuse"]

[Text] In the task of "gaining time," the change in pace was obvious. In the midst of a microclimate of effervescence, the university students stepped up the pace last week. From north to south, the student "fuse" was leaving signs of the expected participation on the different campuses: plebiscites, "take-overs" and elections followed a timetable that showed no letup. Apparently, it has still not ended.

The most violent outburst occurred at UC [Universidad Catolica] on Thursday, 21 June, with the occupation of the Philosophy Institute on the East Campus. Some 35 students, mostly philosophy students, participated and another 30 expressed their "solidarity." A banner hung under one of the windows: "Enough repression. No more sanctions. Go away." The group asked for the readmission of Octavio Carrasco, one of their members and a student of that institute. Accused of having led a "popular assembly" the week before at the same institute, the rector's office expelled him and filed a lawsuit against him.

While four UC professors tried to mediate in the conflict at the request of the students, the site was surrounded by a massive police deployment. Seven buses of Carabineros, two "guanacos" and one helicopter kept the area isolated --after it was emptied--from noon on. At 1645 hours at the request of Dean Sergio Gaete (law) and Dean Juan de Dios Vial (philosophy), the police entered with three buses and about 80 men. This was an unusual action, at least in Santiago, under the military regime.

Finally 24 students were taken to the 19th police station; the rest left the site peacefully. On Monday, 25 June, the 15 detained were released without any charges against them.

"They Will Not Be Able..."

To demand their release, 18 youths from different departments began an indefinite hunger strike in the San Roque parish the day after the incident. In a statement they warned: "They can cut a flower but they will not be able to stop the spring." The group stopped the fast after the release of their

comrades. The rector, Ret Vice Adm Jorge Swett, regretted "what happened deeply...but the cunning and bold action of a small sector of the student body that does not listen to reason and only acts violently cannot be permitted."

In the name of the participants in the "take-over," one philosophy student, Mario Bugueno, insisted on its peaceful nature. He added: "This demonstrates the depth of the university crisis. The authorities have no control and resort to the vilest methods to maintain an already untenable situation." Denouncing the "violation of university autonomy," several leaders representing the Coordination of Centers of Democratic Students announced a strike for Wednesday, 25 July.

One of the mediating professors, Humberto Giannini, told HOY that "the entrance of Carabineros could have been avoided. We tried." In his opinion, the occupation ("there was no violence") obeys a "widespread student effervescence" that, in this case, went beyond the political parties and the statements of the opposition" within the UC. He concluded: "Basically, it is a spontaneous, desperate group because it notes a stagnation in the democratization process of the university."

It was not, however, the only "take-over" during the week. In Temuco, the students of the Universidad de la Frontera occupied the Andres Bello and Arturo Prat campuses during a 48-hour strike. Their lengthy petition included requests for a return to the system of differentiated tuition and an end to the internal security organizations and harassment of leaders. The strike ended Friday, 22 June, with a promise from Rector Juan Barrientos to "continue talking" and the resignation of the chief of the security services, Arturo Atala.

Revive FECH

In a different strategy, the students at the Universidad de Chile spoke out on 21 June on the type of internal organization they want in the first general plebiscite held since the "coup." Many told HOY that it was "a historic date." It was even more important after the recent dissolution of the Fecech union (HOY, No. 360). The vote was on free affiliation or a single federation with a timetable that would begin with the election of a Constitutional Assembly on 5 July and end with formation of an executive council on 4 September.

In order to repudiate the procedure used, the government called for abstention and even proposed delaying the plebiscite. The opposition grouped in the Council of Presidents of 14 student centers (out of a total of 17) encouraged participation. It supported the second choice. Posters appeared in different schools with various mottoes: "Plebiscite: Don't lose the opportunity!" "To recover a free university: FECH [Student Federation of Chile]." According to the opposition, the objective is to redeem the historic meaning of FECH, its democratic and representative nature, incorporating new elements that guarantee its survival under a dictatorship.

Ricardo Herrera, president of the Engineering Student Center, stated: "We don't live in a democratic university but we are fighting to recover one. The imposed scheme has been broken. This process is irreversible and we will

demonstrate our maturity in the construction of a democratic and autonomous federation that will also represent the minorities."

When the votes were counted, though, the basic requirement so that one of the alternatives prevail--50 percent plus 1--was not achieved. There were 8,252 students who voted out of a total of 15,728. There were 337 for free affiliation and 7,630 for a single federation (48.51 percent). It was indicated that this week the Council of Delegates must decide on the future procedure.

Visions

The 2-month-old University Front which has government leanings called the results "a defeat for the divisionists." It accused the "promoters of FECH" of an attempt to "use the student organization as an instrument of expression and agitation by the party alliances that are behind this convocation." Its secretary general, Fernando Espina, a medical student, told HOY:

"The failure of the opposition opened a divisive road that can have serious consequences for the student movement if it is not closed in time. It is true that the majority of us want a single federation but one reached through consensus. We agreed with many of the statements of the opposition but the solution mechanisms used do not satisfy us."

The government sector of the Universidad de Santiago recognized that "we have been behind in institutional normalization." Luis Castro, appointed president of the Superior Student Council, told HOY that "by November we must have an autonomous and democratic organization. However, it must be through a serious and organized transition process, without trauma or violence that opens incurable wounds within the community."

Symptoms of Contagion

The desire to participate in this timetable caught on at several regional universities. FEC [Student Federation of Concepcion] announced elections to change its executive council on Wednesday, 27 June. Its leaders recognized that they live "in an oasis of democracy within the country." As proof, they recalled the visit from Dr Manuel Almeyda of the MDP [Popular Democratic Movement] to that Penco site last weekend. Cristian Cornejo, current president of the FEC, recalled that the chance to vote is "one more victory in a long, slow struggle to achieve participation." He announced that the next task is to form the Confederation of University Students.

In Valdivia, the students at Universidad Austral will have their democratic debut on 29 June in the first elections for leaders in 11 years. Expression has not been exactly complete. The last sanction fell on a dozen students who participated in a peaceful demonstration during the 12 April student strike. One was suspended for a year, two for a semester and the rest lost a number of benefits including free food.

In light of all this, the absence of discussion inside the university councils is not just recognized by the opposition groups--after 11 years of appointed

rectors. According to government leader Fernando Espina of the University Front, "the phenomenon of repression has led to isolated outbursts to which we have frequently responded too drastically. That is because we have been blockaded without being able to think. We leaders must be capable of sitting down together, without any political bias, to seek consensus."

7717

CSO: 3348/488

CHILE

BRIEFS

PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET AUGMENTED--An additional investment of 3 billion pesos to develop about 400 new contracts under the Ministry of Public Works during the second 6 months will absorb approximately 10,000 unemployed people monthly. This increased the budget allocated to investments in this sector to 30 billion pesos. The minister of public works, Brig Gen Bruno Siebert, stated this at the end of his explanation yesterday to the intendants of all the regions in the country. They participated in an analysis meeting with the minister of interior, Sergio Onofre Jarpa. The minister of public works said: "The intendants were very interested in the new programs that will be carried out mainly in the regions." The minister indicated that it is necessary to add an investment of 3 billion pesos for the second 6 months to the 27 billion pesos allocated for investments by his ministry. This will mean 400 new contracts throughout the country. [Text] [Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 5 Jul 84 p 5] 7717

CSO: 3348/488

CONFUSION SURROUNDING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION DATA VIEWED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 Jul 84 p 8-F

[Text] Does the Colombian agricultural-livestock sector have a reliable source of statistics to evaluate prospects and behavior of the sector?

The resounding response of analysts from various public and private organizations who handle the intricate variables of the most vital sector of the national economy every day is: No.

However, each entity, union, association, cooperative, corporation, etc., has its "own" statistics to explain, verify, denounce or correct figures.

The absence of a unified system of agricultural-livestock statistical information is considered a serious problem of the rural sector.

At present, for example, there is an open but undeclared "war" of figures that has been fought for several months among respectable organizations, both official and private.

This is nothing new. Barely 2 years ago, to cite only one case, TIERRAS Y GANADO obtained partial data about planting in the first 6 months from the credit records of the main banking entities. All hell broke out with the minister of agriculture, not because it was not true but because an obvious food shortage can generate a collapse of unimaginable proportions.

Now when one of the main challenges of the Betancur administration is to place the agricultural-livestock sector in the vanguard of economic revitalization, quantifiable figures on successes for different crops and agricultural and livestock activities have appeared.

Barely 2 weeks ago, OPSA [Agricultural-Livestock Sector Planning Office] which is under the Ministry of Agriculture, CEGA [Corporation of Livestock and Agricultural Studies] and SAC [Association of Colombian Farmers] separately issued figures that openly contradict each other.

The records that entities like the Agricultural-Livestock Financial Fund and the agricultural associations present for rice, wheat, corn, sorghum or barley or that the cattlemen present on meat or milk production--whether credit figures or hectares in full activity--are also eloquent.

Figures Come and Go

The growth of agricultural-livestock production during recent years has been characterized by its slowness and often frankly negative indices.

For 1983 the SAC calculated the growth at over 1 percent while the Ministry of Agriculture placed it at 2.1 percent. This year the government estimates figures up to 3.1 percent for agricultural activity and 2 percent for livestock.

A recent article in the magazine SINTESIS ECONOMICA formulated its statements based on predictions given by different official entities like ICA [Colombian Agricultural-Livestock Institute], the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural-Livestock Financial Fund. Based on these evaluations, it indicated that agricultural revitalization is "suspect."

For example, the credit program of the Agricultural-Livestock Financial Fund guarantees revitalization by increasing its resources by approximately 25 percent. According to CEGA, the use has been so low that it is only explicable because transitory crops decreased in the area financed by 18.3 percent compared to the same period in 1983.

It is obvious that one could immediately allege the country's need to either increase its agricultural boundaries or increase the rates of productivity and efficiency in order to increase demand. There will be many who note that there has been a substantial reduction in crops like sorghum displaced--for profit--by cotton.

According to OPSA, food production will grow this year up to 5 percent, a factor that will contribute notably to the government's anti-inflationary fight.

Meanwhile, the SAC denounced a frank stagnation in planting, mainly rice, sorghum, corn, barley, soybean and even sugar cane. It predicted about \$213 million to make up for the shortage of oils, concentrates, wheat, sorghum and barley.

CEGA called the livestock situation for the first months of 1984 "anomalous," partly for the lack of pasture and partly for the increase of slaughter. As to the agricultural situation, it emphasized that the revitalization will not occur and gave its own figures to prove its postulate.

Causes and Effects

There are several causes for the increases or reductions in planted areas depending on the crop.

As to mainly commercial or business agricultural products (banana, flowers, cotton, tobacco and African palm), their conditions and situation are very different from the fields of peasants and investors where small and medium ownership makes its appearance.

Both sectors are affected by production costs, marketing problems, loss of profit, the export policy, support prices and delays in payment, to mention only a few factors.

There is no question about the administration's efforts to find a coherent policy that stimulates both the peasant and the big businessman, today affected by the tensions of insecurity, pressure for land, high interest rates and investment guarantees.

The unions, different from 5 years ago, work with the state organizations to diagnose problems, compare analyses and formulate immediate solutions that make it possible to see the official refrain of "turning the attention to the rural sector" become reality.

The uncertainty reigning in the sector has not permitted an increase in the agricultural boundaries. According to analysts, in order for production to increase about 4 percent per year, the number of hectares must be multiplied by 2 percent as minimum and that has not happened.

If the records of the Ministry of Agriculture are accepted as valid to explain the "good times" for agriculture compared to last year, they would be summarized as follows: at least 22 crops have increased, only 1 has remained stable and 3 have decreased.

When compared to the figures of other sectors which are apparently not as "optimistic," the situation is uncertain. Also serious objections have been made to the package of budget priorities that the government is applying to official organizations where reductions of up to 15 percent for 1985 have already been mentioned.

Reductions and Increases

According to the official figures as of the middle of June--the first half of the year--the situation of plantings compared to the first half of last year is as follows:

Sesame increased its production area by 700 hectares; cotton, up 25,000 hectares; rice, up 10,570 hectares; barley, up 3,700 hectares; beans, up 6,720; corn, up 13,655; sorghum, up 4,190; gold tobacco, up 200 hectares; and wheat, up 3,400 hectares.

Other specialists in evaluating figures feel that the growth in rice, barley, corn, sorghum and wheat "has not been an increase." They explained that, on the contrary, it "continues stagnant." They recognized good behavior in cotton and stated that its area has doubled, not an increase of only 25,000 hectares as the government reports.

For stable and semistable products, the statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture are: export banana, an increase in area of 500 hectares (UPEB [Union of Banana Exporting Countries] has recommended a reduction to avoid a drop in international prices because of a world oversupply); cocoa, up 2,700 hectares; sugar cane, up 1,000 hectares; brown sugar cane, up 9,721 hectares; coconut, up 1,230; vegetables, up 5,551; fruits, up 1,238; yams, up 360 hectares; African palm, up 600; black tobacco, up 1,200; and yucca, up 56,314 hectares.

There were no concrete objections but some of the groups surveyed were surprised by the "exorbitant" figure for yucca in only 6 months. They commented: "It would be, with cotton, the leading product of the agricultural-livestock sector."

Based on its analysis and predictions, the Ministry of Agriculture expects the following crops by the end of 1984:

Sesame, 1,400 tons in 1983 and 1,800 in 1984, an increase of more than 400 tons; cotton, 83,200 tons in 1983 and 132,000 in 1984, an increase of 48,000 tons; rice, 1,060,106 tons in 1983 and 1,122,428 in 1984, an increase of 62,322 tons; barley, 16,240 tons in 1983 and 24,080 in 1984, an increase of 7,840 tons; and beans, 27,500 tons in 1983 and 33,483 in 1984, an increase of 5,983 tons.

They also predicted: corn, 509,875 tons in 1983 and 534,463 in 1984, an increase of 24,588 tons; peanuts, 1,450 tons in 1983 and 1,600 in 1984, an increase of 150 tons; potato, 1,156,900 tons in 1983 and 1,094,550 in 1984, a decrease of 62,350 tons; sorghum, 270,031 tons in 1983 and 294,423 in 1984, an increase of 24,392 tons; soybean, 49,600 tons in 1983 and 42,320 in 1984, a decrease of 7,280 tons; gold tobacco, 3,800 tons in 1983 and 4,000 in 1984, an increase of 200 tons; and export banana, 1,173,000 tons in 1983 and 1,220,800 in 1984, an increase of 47,800 tons.

7717

CSO: 3348/487

PRISON TORTURE METHODS SCORED; REMEDIAL MEASURES TAKEN

Prisons Visited

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Jul 84 p 8-B

[Article by Cesar Valencia Parra: "Attorney General's Office Denounces Prison Torture"]

[Text] The Attorney General's Office denounced torture of prisoners in the majority of the jails in the country. They are put in isolation cells where they are subjected to "horrificing methods," according to the deputy attorney general, Jaime Ossa Arbelaez.

After visiting the main prisons, the Attorney General's Office said that the prison population is subjected to a rigid disciplinary regime that includes drastic punishments and confinement in small dungeons under the worst physical conditions.

The consistent violation of the prisoners' right to defense was denounced. Isolation is imposed on them without any disciplinary procedure, without hearing their defense and merely with a report from the guard.

At the same time these accusations were made, an investigation was ordered by the Attorney General's Office to establish the responsibilities of the prison administrative personnel in the practice of torture and violation of the human rights of the prisoners.

It was warned that the investigations can end in a criminal investigation.

Dungeons

Deputy Attorney General Ossa Arbelaez, Alvaro Lopez Dorado, delegate from the Public Ministry, and Miguel Angel Enciso Pava, the delegate for judicial supervision, presented an evaluation of the results of the unannounced visits to the following jails: Distrital, Modelo, El Barne, Buen Pastor, Choconta, Cucuta, Caqueza, Villavicencio, Acacias, etc.

It was fully verified that the prisoners to whom the strict internal disciplinary regime is applied are confined in unhealthy isolation cells which are totally dark without any ventilation and barely 4 or 5 meters in area.

In many jails there are six or eight prisoners in the same cell which makes it physically impossible for them to eat or sleep.

The punishments last for 48 hours or more based on the decision of the administrative personnel in charge of disciplinary procedures.

"Those dungeons which are places of horror lead to the physical and moral destruction of the prisoner," stated Deputy Attorney General Ossa Arbelaez. He gave a general report on the situation of Colombian jails.

What Defense?

It was also verified that the prisoners are not really given the right to defense because they do not know the status of their trials and because they do not have timely collaboration from a lawyer.

During the visit it was also established that there is an inexplicable social discrimination in the prisons that allows some prisoners to enjoy all the comforts while others are crowded into yards without any sanitation.

The deputy attorney general also complained that the officials who should visit the jails monthly constantly ignore this obligation, facilitating the practice of the harmful methods verified.

It was ordered that, beginning today, the judges, district attorneys, officials of the Attorney General's Office and the mayors visit the jails periodically as established in the law in order to prevent the continuation of these aberrant methods of punishment.

The Attorney General's Office verified that promiscuity in the jails has become a degrading factor for prisoners while minors and adults share the same cell.

Crowding

The investigation by officials of the Attorney General's Office took several months. It led to the conclusion that the 189 jails in Colombia have a capacity for only 12,000 prisoners. Nevertheless, at this time there is a prison population of 28,000. There are 16,000 crowded into yards and old dormitories.

They do not have the most elemental conditions to live like humans. There are also 26,000 accused, only 6,000 of whom have their legal situation defined.

Changes

The Attorney General's Office demanded a radical change in the Colombian prison system to eliminate the dungeons or isolation cells in the prisons, the torture and repressive methods and to reorganize these establishments.

Deputy Attorney General Ossa Arbelaez will meet with the general director of prisons, Bernardo Echeverri Ossa, and give him the official report on the

results of the visits. They will also discuss possible changes that can be made to the prison system.

A few hours ago the minister of justice, Enrique Parejo Gonzalez, announced the government's intention to reform the prison system in the country to end what he called "the moral torture" that a prison stay implies.

Demolition of Dungeons Ordered

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 5 Jul 84 p 2-A

[Text] The government ordered the immediate demolition of the isolation cells in Colombian jails and urgently instructed the prison directors to refrain from inflicting punishments on prisoners that constitute a violation of human rights or torture.

After hearing the report of the Attorney General's Office on the visits made to different jails, the minister of justice, Enrique Parejo Gonzalez, and the director general of prisons, Bernardo Echeverri Ossa, ordered the immediate destruction of the dungeons in these prisons and banned any method that implies torture or violation of the rights of the prisoners.

The urgent order also provides for the reorganization of the Discipline Councils that function in the 189 jails in the country in order to prevent that the prisoners are punished in the future without any proceeding and without following the law.

A circular was sent yesterday to the prison directors after learning the contents of the report of the Attorney General's Office. It instructed them to eliminate the isolation cells called "dungeons or sites of horror" by the officials of the Public Ministry who investigated the application of degrading punishment to the prisoners.

It was decided that, as of today, the prison directors cannot use cells or dungeons. When they must punish prisoners, they can confine them in prepared rooms.

Echeverri Ossa told EL TIEMPO that the order is final and will constitute grounds for misconduct by any official who ignores these instructions and persists in imposing punishments on the prisoners, isolating them under inhuman conditions.

The director general of prisons recalled that the penitentiary code has norms that prohibit punishments for prisoners and the use of dungeons or isolation cells.

These dungeons, according to investigations by the Attorney General's Office, function in the majority of the Colombian jails including Modelo, El Barne, Distrital, Andes, Acacias and Bellavista.

The government decision is the immediate result of the adverse report about the handling of the jails by some directors.

It was reported that three directors were fired recently after verifying that they subjected the prisoners to punishments prohibited by Colombian legislation.

Investigator

The General Directorate of Prisons appointed Rafael Motta to investigate the escape of seven prisoners from the Sogamoso jail last Monday night.

The inspector must learn about the handling of that prison and the situation of the building since, according to reports, it is insecure. This facilitated the prisoners' escape.

7717

CSO: 3348/487

BRIEFS

NEW PUSC OFFICERS--Cristian Tattenbach Iglesias has been elected president of the Social Christian Unity Party, PUSC, National Executive Committee. Rolando Lacle Castro has been elected vice president; Roberto Tovar Faja, secretary, and Andres Jenkins Dobles, treasurer. Tattenbach Iglesias replaces Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, who resigned. [Summary] [PA130310 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 1 Jul 84 p 4-A PA]

TRADE PROTOCOL WITH MALTA--The governments of Costa Rica and Malta signed a protocol in San Jose yesterday so as to reactivate and strengthen bilateral commercial, economic and cultural relations. The document was signed by acting President Alberto Fajalberto for Costa Rica and by Albert Mizzi, special envoy from the Maltese Government. Included under the protocol are coffee, sugar, bananas, cement, repair, development projects, railroad and port construction, and other activities. [Summary] [PA100050 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 30 Jun 84 p 3 PA]

NEW PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR--Alfonso Espinosa Palacios, the new Peruvian ambassador to Costa Rica, has presented his credentials before the Costa Rican Government. [Summary] [PA170424 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 8 Jul 84 p 2 PA]

CSO: 3248/712

U.S. MARKET, ORGANIZED CRIME CITED IN COLOMBIAN DRUG PROBLEM

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish No 23, 7 Jun 84 pp 19, 20

[Article by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] Descendants of "Lucky" Luciano

When President Belisario Betancur recently decreed open warfare in Colombia against drug trafficking, some skeptics wondered whether that problem really called for such a spectacular response.

However, soon the skeptics had to withdraw their doubts. The president said that Colombia is suffering from a grave moral crisis due to "a disregard for ethical values which have been swept aside in favor of values rooted in money."

Armed attack, robbery, political crimes, crimes of passion, rivalry among gangs of drug traffickers, assassinations, kidnapping by paramilitary groups are some of the manifestations which make the cities completely unsafe places.

Side by side with the reports of such acts, every day the press reports drastic counterrevolutionary actions taken by the army in its attempt to dislodge the guerrillas from their redoubts in various areas.

Reports are also filtering out about the dramatic trade in children who are abandoned by their parents and sold to European families through unscrupulous merchants as middlemen.

But above all, the affliction of drug trafficking stands out. It has come to the point where the mafia controls sectors of the economy, manipulates politicians, judicial and police officials and has at its disposal large tracts of land, laboratories and other facilities.

It is also linked to "Death to Kidnappers" (MAS), a paramilitary group which came into being in 1981, which has taken the lives of a number of guerrillas and progressive politicians and labor leaders.

An interesting aside is that the drug trafficking czars are linked with a number of professional sports teams, an additional source of wealth at the expense of the exploitation of the athletes.

Overall, the gangs make a profit of more than US\$ 50 million yearly. The money from that illegal business represented an injection of a billion dollars into the national economy in 1980.

With so many pesos at their disposal and so much influence in various sectors, the mafia came to feel they were untouchable. The persecution to which it was subjected as soon as Dr Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, one of Belisario Betancur's main collaborators, took office as minister of justice, was an unforgivable challenge to the mafia.

Colombians were thunderstruck when on 30 April 1984 they learned that Lara had been assassinated by bullets shot by two motorcycle drivers who were carrying out orders by drug traffickers.

That date will be indelibly marked in our national history because, besides marking a crime against a public figure, it provided Belisario the opportunity to declare war without quarter against those responsible for the loss of the minister.

Since 1 May 1984, Colombia has again been under a state of siege which has allowed the prompt arrest of hundreds of persons suspected of being linked to the drug trade.

The Ministry of Defense readjusted its budget to meet the cost of the police sweeps. In city streets retail salesmen, owners of kiosks, cafeterias and other business establishments guilty of spreading the use and abuse of drugs were arrested.

Some of the heads of the business also began to fall but analysts say that the majority of them must have managed to escape to neighboring countries by availing themselves of their vast resources and mobility.

Carlos Lehder, one of the prisoners, admitted that his fortune had previously amounted to US\$ 170 million obtained from transporting marijuana to the United States. However, he must have twice this amount if one takes into account other activities in which he is engaged.

He and the other prisoners will be tried by military tribunals for trafficking, for possession of large farms planted with illegal crops or laboratories for processing the raw material.

The police findings are revealing. Near the town of Socorro, Santander Province, seven plantations with 400,000 coca plants, two processing plants and chemicals were found.

At Guajira, on the Venezuelan border, 776 packages of marijuana were seized. In other regions, airplanes, trucks, autos--some of which are armor plated--arms and communication equipment were seized.

However, in addition to the imposing punishment, the vast police sweep should be food for thought by the authorities on the causes of such problems.

Bogota and other localities provide the favorable setting where adolescents, and even children, smoke "bazookas"--a powerful mixture of tobacco and cocaine. They wander the streets without thinking of schooling, hold up passersby and sleep anywhere, exposed to the cold nights. They are the notorious "gamins."

Young people believe that earning a livelihood is excessively hard due to the shortage of educational opportunities and jobs. More and more of them leave home due to conflicts with their parents.

They are the ones who suffer most from the effects of unemployment, the shortcomings of the school system, the difficulties in economic development, the lack of housing and other problems.

The boom in drug trafficking in Colombia and neighboring countries has a direct relationship with the internal economic and social crisis and with the huge U.S. market.

According to well-known reports, 90 percent of the cocaine and 60 percent of the marijuana produced in Colombia end up in the United States with the consent of judicial, police and immigration officials who yield to bribes or intimidation.

It is true that thousands of Latin American families subsist because of coca planting and are manipulated by traffickers in their greed for profit. But were it not for the U.S. greed, the profits of suppliers would be drastically reduced.

Miami is the drug capital of the world through which 70 percent of the hallucinogenic drugs consumed in the United States enter. In that world, traffickers and criminals live side by side with bankers, lawyers, politicians and police, who put up a front of apparent decency, but who really are in the "trade."

The emulators of Charles "Lucky" Luciano, who in the thirties rebuilt the old mafia, teamed up with the Jew Meyer Lansky and controlled the underworld, especially the heroin traffic, freely circulate in Bogota, Miami, Washington, New York, Chicago and other cities of the hemisphere.

Today's czars frequently are linked to the CIA and the FBI. They care little that millions of youths waste away under the influence of drugs and that thousands of others abandon the search for means of making an honest living in their native lands in search of "easy" money under the auspices of the drug potentates.

9204

CSO: 3248/695

HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON ANTISOCIAL ACTIVITY IN PUBS

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 22, 1 Jun 84 pp 55-56

[Article by Enrique Valdes Perez]

[Text] For the purpose of attempting to meet the demand for beer and faced with a shortage of containers to distribute it in the commercial and restaurant network, about 1970 several large establishments filled with tables without chairs, capable of accommodating about 150 consumers simultaneously, were created.

This is how the pubs or "pilots," as people soon described them, came into being. They appeared as if by magic overnight, selling beer in bulk.

To tell the truth, although workers liked the idea, it is no less certain that they frequented them with misgivings since right from the start antisocial elements who imposed the law of strongest began to take over these places with the management tolerating them or impotent to stop them and in a good number of cases with the complicity of some unscrupulous employees who thought they had found the goose that laid the golden eggs.

At the present time 30 units of this type are operating in Havana and the situation created at the start seems to have become institutionalized. For whom were the pubs created? For the workers, without a doubt. Who are undeservedly enjoying them to a considerable extent? Fringe elements who persist during this temporary phase. This does not mean that our workers do not frequent the "pilots." But it is a secret to no one that they do so at grave risk since their safety is at the mercy of chance.

Furthermore, the established norms with regard to the quantity of liquid each pitcher should contain have been violated with incredible recklessness. And on many occasions, not in conformity with them, the beer has been adulterated with water.

The conditions the "pilots" provide are depressing: disturbances of the peace, indiscriminate use of obscene language, lack of respect for visitors, especially women, fetid odors and filth.

So, the question the public has been raising is: What shall be done with the pubs? Close them down or rescue them for the people?

Last week a meeting was held in the Ministry of Domestic Trade theater, the sole point of which was to discuss this delicate problem. Comrade Antonio Esquivel, a member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Minister, Manuel Vila Sosa, the minister of domestic trade, Rene Lara, the secretary general of the Commercial and Restaurant Workers Union, and union leaders and officials, managers of the Havana pubs and some of the people who work in them met there.

Senen Zamora, the restaurant union leader from El Cotorro, Juan Benitez, the manager of the Marianao Pub, Anselmo Ruiz, the union leader from Guanabacoa, Marta Naranja, the restaurant union representative from Habana del Este, Roberto Vega of the Luyano Moderno Pub, Rafael Alonso of the Salon Indonesio, Francisco Montenegro of the Victoria Pub and Miguel Angel Ricardo, an employee of the Rumba Palace, participated. All agreed that the present image of these units must be changed by decentralizing sales, expanding the network, making the premises more attractive, requiring compliance with the rules and posting bouncers to avoid crowds that interfere with the work.

Antonio Esquivel requested the floor and raised the question: What political price will the revolutionary government have to pay to keep the pubs open? Will we have to pay for the negative balance? He was referring to a videotape that was run off at the start of the meeting, in which the image of these centers was observed by way of example and the opinions of members of the public, who said they were against the "pilots," were listened to.

After noting that beer is a product that all of us like, he indicated that he was in favor of expanding the network, but not in terms of the present structure. That is, no more pubs in the old mold. A study would be made that would permit us to determine those bars, grocery stores, cafeterias, pizzerias and other establishments in which it would be feasible to install tanks for the sale of beer in bulk since it is impossible to meet the demand with the bottled product. There would, moreover, be cleanliness, attractiveness, in short, better surroundings. Cold food would be offered customers, with such products prepared by a center which would be opened in Havana for that purpose. And Esquivel asserted, if a bouncer is needed, there will be a bouncer.

We think that one factor that has contributed to the violation of the rules is the lack of a standard container. For example, why do we not specify that pitchers be served full? Why leave it up to employees to interpret the quantity of beer they ought to serve? Bulletins have been made up ideally explaining how full the pitcher should be: three fingers below the rim, four....

What is certain is that a way of doing it has been outlined, that we are aware of what has to be done and that there will be no hesitation. We cannot now for even a single instant relax our vigilance in the pubs and we must with constant, random inspections keep watch over how the situation is developing and at all costs keep gossip among mischievous workers — who harm the whole sector with their attitude — and fringe groups from starting up again. We must clean up responsibilities and go so far as to invoke the ultimate consequences when the first symptoms of breaches of discipline and order appear.

11,466

CSO: 3248/704

CRIME PREVENTION MEETING ON TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, IDLE YOUTH

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 22, 1 Jun 84 pp 56-58

[Article by Reinaldo Penalver]

[Text] BOHEMIA reporters traveled 500 km in the direction of the country's eastern provinces to participate as exceptional witnesses in one of the monthly meetings of the Provincial Crime Prevention Commission (CPPD), which the minister of justice and member of our party's Central Committee, Dr Juan Escalona Reguera, attended for the first time as a guest.

We had absolutely no idea of how the meeting was to be conducted. It is worth noting that we attended as witnesses to an action engaged in by men and women of this province in response to our government and party's request that we work to cut crime down to a minimum through a preventive effort that may influence the behavior of every member of our society.

Chairing the meeting with Dr Escalona were Francisco Herrera Roque, the second secretary of the party's provincial commission, Miguel Aguilar Onoz, the president of the People's Government Assembly, Dr Amalio del Rio Romero, the chairman of the CPPD, and other leaders and officials.

The meeting began with the reading of the agenda and among the most important points was the one having to do with the Traffic Subcommittee report on the breakdown for accidents during the first quarter of the year in comparison with those that occurred during the same period last year.

The figures revealed encouraging results, a product of the joint efforts of the PNR [National Revolutionary Police] and the commission. Whereas there were 128 accidents, 24 deaths, 208 persons injured and 100,221 pesos in material damages [during the previous period], there was a reduction of 11 accidents, 5 deaths, 52 injured and 50,296 pesos in damages.

What Role Has the Commission Played?

In the course of the meeting the usefulness of preventive measures worked out for this purpose by the CPPD was proven. With respect to the problem of accidents produced by animals straying on the highway, it was learned that each CPPD subcommittee in its municipality took it upon itself to circulate among

animal owners the pertinent measures, among them that of carrying out the construction of corrals.

Another measure that produced good results was the issuing of summons to 33 farm and livestock transport drivers who imbibed alcoholic beverages on the job.

This Time They Were Warned

The flagrant violation was uncovered by CPPD members and groups from the different municipalities. They knew the places and the times they stopped their trucks to buy bottles of liquor as well as the routes they had to cover. With this information, the 33 men were summoned before the chief of the provincial traffic unit and warned that they must not continue to pursue such an irresponsible attitude of disregard for their own lives and those of their fellow men. These men's reaction was positive. Without exception, all of them admitted the error they had committed, were profoundly grateful to the PNR for the attitude it had assumed in their favor and promised not to backslide into so serious an offense.

Crimes Against the Economy

Included among the remaining topics discussed was also the one relating to the different crimes against the economy and measures tending to reduce their number were adopted. Also, the effort being made with regard to elements described as discordant in their workplaces as well as in the communities they reside was discussed.

At the meeting they also discussed and considered in detail the work on the census to locate minors 15 and 16 years of age who, although they constitute a very small minority of our youth, neither work nor study.

On this point Maj Hector Hernandez of the MININT [Ministry of Interior] gave a detailed report in which he referred to the "apprentice movement" — as they call it — and said that all the contacts with the mass organizations and with the party to go on with this task had already been made.

As a result of the effort that has been made, at the present time contacts with various provincial enterprises are in the processing phase for the initiation of apprenticeship courses for a total of 73 youths, 71 of whom will start in the construction sector and two in the domain of trade.

Meanwhile, the CPPD will through its committees at the workplaces supervise and care for these future workers, seeing to it that they behave themselves in their social lives and on the job.

How Did the Work of the CPPD Originate?

At the end of the meeting the chairman of the institution, who is also a member of the People's Government Executive Committee and the party Provincial Committee, Amalio del Rio Romero, granted us an interview for the purpose of informing

us about the structure and objectives of this commission which, as Minister Escalona Reguera said when he concluded the meeting, "is going to help to deal seriously, thoroughly and above all with efficient, collective determination with the steps that are being taken in this country to successfully reduce criminal activities."

It was about 1980 when, acting on a proposal by the MININT administration through that agency's delegation in the province, they began to implement a preventive operation in the municipality of Venezuela. We cannot say that that operation had the same features with which the commission today works, but we can definitely say that those first steps constituted the basic embryo of the entire crime prevention effort that is being successfully developed in the province of Ciego de Avila.

Two years later, then with the experience that had been acquired, this commission, of a provincial nature, was created, one which has two vice chairmen in addition to a chairman, in this case the head of the PNR's Provincial Department and the president of the Provincial Tribunal, as well as an executive secretary who in turn is the director of the provincial Department of Justice.

[Question] How do you deal with the work of prevention in the different forms crime assumes?

[Answer] We structure the CPPD with a group of study subcommittees, each of which has a chairman and is composed of from four to six comrades from the MININT, FMC [Federation of Cuban Women], UJC [Union of Young Communists], CDR [Committee for the Defense of the Revolution], MINED [Ministry of Education], ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers], the Directorates of Culture and Sports and other institutions.

Furthermore, when we assumed the task of organizing municipal commissions, we gave them the same characteristics as the provincial commission, adapting them to the specific conditions of the municipalities.

[Question] How is the work implemented among the rank and file?

[Answer] Prevention committees in the workplaces and groups devoted to community work constitute the fundamental core for getting the job done among the rank and file.

Later, he went on to explain that the workplace prevention committees are formed in large enterprises and industrial complexes where large worker cells meet and he pointed out that among their basic activities are the publicization of socialist law and order, the campaign against absenteeism, vagrancy and drunkenness, the protection of socialist property, the care of young workers and, most especially, the social rehabilitation of those who have been penalized.

Then he said that there are already rehabilitated workers who have become sponsors for others who have behaved in an undesirable manner.

"We are now also working to achieve close ties between the worker prevention committee and the group from the community the factory is located in because it may happen," he said, "that a worker who is excellent in the factory does not behave properly at home, or vice versa."

Referring to the prevention group's mission in the community, he said that it is similar to the one performed by the committee that operates in the factory.

"Just as in the workplace, in the community its function is to maintain law and order, establish a campaign against criminal manifestations, protect socialist property and try to resolve the situations of those youths who neither study nor work."

After noting that the formation and work of these committees is on the increase, Dr del Rio Romero said that what encourages them most as a final result of all this hard work is the fact that last year, 1983, produced a drop of 152 crimes in the province of Ciego de Avila in comparison with the previous year (1982).

He stressed the fact that throughout this whole prevention operation they had received a great deal of support from the FMC through the program referred to by the federated women of Ciego de Avila as: "My block free of crime," and he emphasized:

"As you have been able to summarize in your evaluations, the chief objective of this CPPD is to engage in concrete actions in the face of the possibility that a criminal act may be carried out... they keep citizens from infringing on socialist law and order."

And, perhaps influenced by his profession, as a doctor, Dr del Rio cited an indisputable example:

"We compare the work we do in the commission with the work that is being done by the Ministry of Public Health with respect to infant mortality, where an effort is made with a pregnant woman from the first months to the moment of delivery so that the child will not die, if only to reduce the infant death rate by one tenth, and this is the equivalent of what we see ourselves doing in this work. If we keep one individual from committing a crime, that is an achievement and a victory for the revolution."

11,466
CSO: 3248/704

ECUADOR

BRIEFS

INCOME FROM OIL EXPORTS--The income from oil exports represented 68 and 74 percent, respectively, of overall exports in 1981 and 1983. The lowest percentage was recorded in 1982: 65 percent. The FOB value of the exports was \$1.4 billion in 1982 and \$1.6 billion in 1983. [Summary] [PA021851 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 2 Jul 84]

CSO: 3348/496

INFLATION DROP TO UNDER 100 PERCENT HOPED

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 5 Jul 84 p A-4

[Text] The minister of economy, finance and commerce, Jose Benavides Munoz, expressed optimism at the downward trend in inflation, and voiced the hope that at the year's end it may terminate near 100 percent. He added: "We would be satisfied if it reached 99.9 percent."

This would mean an inflation 25 points lower than last year, he remarked; providing abundant statistical data on the improved situation that is being experienced.

Showing a statistical chart, Benavides Munoz noted that, during the first half of this year, inflation was 47.6 percent; whereas during the first period of 1983 it had been 56 percent.

The annualized figure from June ('83) to June ('84) amounted to nearly 113 percent, which is 12 points less than the annualized figure up to the first half of last year.

He gave a reminder that he had taken over the Ministry of Economy last March, and that since then the monthly inflation rates have been 6.9, 5.6, 6.1 and 6. The first 2 months showed 7.3 (January) and 8.3 (February).

He commented: "There is consistency in the effort and, despite the expectations of speculation in the commercial sector, there is a downward trend."

He did not give figures, but remarked that the devaluation of our currency in June was somewhat lower than the inflation.

He denied that immediate measures would be ordered to remove our economy from the dollar. "Since this entails raising interest rates for savings in national currency, the passive rate would also have to increase; and that is impossible, owing to the debts in the banking sector."

Goals With IMF

When asked whether the goals agreed upon with the IMF had been met during the period up to 30 June, Benavides Munoz said that our economy has been run so as

to achieve 100 percent; if this as not been the case, it would be to a very slight extent and with regard to but few goals, he stressed.

The results may be announced at the end of August, when an evaluating mission from the Fund will be arriving in the country. Jose Benavides Munoz said: "We hope to have fulfilled the agreements in the letter of intent."

Commenting on the 17 percent tax, he explained that, owing to bad debts, the banking sector is the area that is being affected most negatively by that tax.

He described the status of the banking system as heated, and added that, upon assuming the aforementioned tax, it runs the risk of losing cash. He noted: "We don't want that to happen."

He remarked that, in order to make opinions compatible, Prime Minister Mariategui will meet this afternoon with representatives of the productive sectors. The latter have proposed alternatives other than the implementation of this tax.

He confirmed the fact that, if the 17 percent figure should vary, some compensation would necessarily have to be introduced in order to obtain the nearly 500 billion required for salaries.

2909

CSO: 3348/489

PERU

ECONOMIC ANALYSTS FORESEE NATIONAL BANKRUPTCY

Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Jul 84 p 11

[Text] "The entire Peruvian economy is on the brink of bankruptcy." This statement was made yesterday by Dr Uwe Parpart, mathematician and member of the Executive Intelligence Research [EIR] economic team that has worked on an economic forecast in conjunction with the Institute of Economic and Social Studies of the National Association of Industries, whose head is engineer Ernesto Lanata Piaggio.

Lanata, in commenting on Parpart's assertion regarding the potential Peruvian bankruptcy, remarked, "And this is not counting the 17 percent (tax on credit)."

In fact, according to the EIR experts, a country which arrives at a debt of approximately 30 percent of its total assets can be technically claimed to be bankrupt. Toward the third quarter of 1983 we had exceeded that level, and certain sectors (such as textiles and electric machines for industries) exceeded 70 percent.

According to Parpart, the gross domestic product is an item which is of no use for gaging the activity of the economy, because in the case of Peru, it has been constantly rising. The ostensible upswing since 1977 was achieved by raising the GDP, not by increasing productivity, but rather by curtailing the population's wage level.

The physical portion of production has collapsed, which has caused a lesser food production; and this in turn has brought about massive shrinkage in the calorie consumption among the main social strata, including 75 percent of the Peruvian population.

In the United States, the average daily calorie consumption level is 3,600; in Peru, even the middle class has half of that figure. This has increased infant mortality, and has deteriorated the status of public health, neglecting the nutritional aspect.

Parpart noted ironically: "Peru has achieved the miracle of moving from a pre-industrial economy to a post-industrial economy, without experiencing the complications of industrialization."

The EIR economists attribute our crisis to long-term structural problems. They think that there might be a recovery over the short term. For this purpose, they recommend basically a reactivation of agriculture, at least returning to the 1969 productivity levels.

This could be achieved by cultivating the land which had been under cultivation before 1970 again. Since then, the contracting of hectares under cultivation has been 11 percent.

The second aspect is the reactivation of the capital equipment industry, attaining a use of installed capacity of at least 80 percent. At present, it is under 50 percent.

The demand for capital equipment should come from the reactivated agriculture (machinery, tractors), and from the construction and transportation replacements (vehicles) sector.

Although protectionism is not precluded by the EIR associates, they claim that Prebisch was wrong in protecting consumer goods and leaving capital equipment unprotected. EIR proposes very high barriers for the capital equipment industry, and almost no barriers for products with advanced technology, which it would be absurd to produce here.

They also propose a differential system for interest rates (low interest for agriculture and the capital equipment industry), and a high level for other purposes.

In addition, they deem the development of a Latin American common market to be necessary.

According to Denis Small, also from EIR, the creditor banks are on the brink of failure and, under those conditions, the recommendations on the renegotiation of the debt should come from the Latin American countries which, as he remarked, constitute one of the lesser problems for the North American banks. Those banks have more problems with the 2,000 farms that fail every week in the United States. The United States' domestic debt is \$2.5 billion.

According to Small, the Monetary Fund's receipts are being directed toward the perpetuation of our status as (cheap) sellers of raw materials. He said: "This is something deliberate and malicious." He added that the IMF wants to use the problem of the debt to guarantee the absence of development in the economies of the south and to reduce their national sovereignty, "because the latter does not suit it."

He remarked: "They represent the old interests of the financial oligarchy of the city of London, Switzerland, Venice and Wall Street, which wants to maintain a virtually feudal world order."

He explained that it was for this reason that the Soviet press praised Henry Kissinger when he proposed a 50 percent cut in the United States military troops in Europe. They want to divide the world into the Soviet empire and that of the financial oligarchy.

The EIR team has been contracted by the SNI's Institute of Economic and Social Studies to implement the La Rouché-Riemann econometric model in Peru, one based upon Riemann mathematics. They have discarded the Von Neuman model, bases of the mathematics of equilibrium, and introduced in 1938.

2909

CSO: 3348/489

POLL COMPARES POLITICIANS' POPULARITY

Lima OIGA in Spanish 9 Jul 84 p 10

[Text] The erosion of the government amid the deteriorating situation that the country and the city of Lima are experiencing, is hurting the image of President Belaunde and the mayor of Lima, Alfonso Barrantes. On the other hand, Minister Jose Benavides, who had departed skillfully, well relieved of his previous administration in the Ministries of Education and Energy and Mines, now in the fiery Ministry of Economy, has become the most unpopular of the holders of portfolios in this government.

These were the principal data from the "political opinion study" for the month of July of this year made by the firm "Peruvian Public Opinion" (POP), a study which, moreover, served to confirm the rejection by the majority of the agreements signed by the government with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

When the public was asked: "Which political personages do not suit you?" the poll made it possible to mention in first place Fernando Belaunde, with 17 percent, followed by Manuel Ulloa (14 percent) and Javier Alva (8 percent), all leading figures in the present regime. Appearing in fourth place was Luis Bedoya (7 percent), followed by Alfonso Barrantes, Alan Garcia, Francisco Morales Bermudez and Hugo Blanco, all with 5 percent.

The municipal administration of the mayor of Lima, Alfonso Barrantes, who thus far has been unable to provide a suitable solution for the problems besetting the city (public cleanliness, vendors, etc.), was considered only fair by the majority of those interviewed (41 percent), while 27 percent thought that it was poor, and 13 percent considered it very poor.

When those polled were asked which minister is the one with the worst administration to date, the sign of rejection went to the minister of economy, Jose Benavides, with 25 percent, followed by the interior minister, Luis Percovich, with 14 percent, and Valentin Paniagua (education) and Max Arias Schreiber (justice), both with 5 percent.

The agreements with the IMF were regarded as unfavorable for the country by 54 percent of those polled, and 29 percent thought that they were partially favorable for Peru.

The field work done by POP took place in Greater Lima, between 18 and 22 June. The sample polled consisted of 600 interviews held with men and women on the upper-middle, and lower socioeconomic level, aged from 17 to 34 and 35 years and over.

We have not collected the data on next year's electoral race, because we regard them as still too early.

2909

CSO: 3348/489

BRIEFS

THREE POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTERED--To put it as the modern polls do, if the general elections were held tomorrow, they could not take place, because to date there are only three political parties which have not carried out the registration with the JNE [National Election Jury]. And, with all due respect, none of those groups really have an influential political significance in our electoral area. They comprise what a learned local commentator has with ingenious accuracy termed "the Menudo [unimportant] group in politics." They are the Movement of Hayista Bases, the National Integration Party (PADIN) and the Democratic Front for National Unity (FREDEUNA). The first one is a dissident faction of the Peruvian Aprista Party, led by Dr Andres Townsend Ezcurra, who suffered a severe setback in the municipal elections. PADIN is also a dissident group, this time from the ranks of the Popular Christian Party, headed by Miguel Angel Mufarech, whose ambitions appear to be as limited as the votes won to date. And, finally, Gen Morales Bermudez' FREDEUNA, is an unknown quantity, because it has not made its debut in the political area. Hence, we shall have to await the registration of the greats: AP [Popular Action] APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance], PPC [Popular Christian Party] and IU [United Left]. [Text] [Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Jul 84 Siete Dias p 2] 2909

ENGLISH, JAPANESE INVESTMENT EXPECTED--Yesterday, the minister of energy and mines, Juan Inchaustegui Vargas, announced that, probably before 28 July, a satisfactory agreement may be reached with two foreign investment groups for operating Cerro Verde II. He said that a British group and another which is Japanese are really very interested in investing in the Cerro Verde II rich copper deposit, and that the talks are well under way; hence it is anticipated that an agreement will be arrived at soon. He also announced that the regulations for the Law on Mining should be released this month, so that, with this legal basis, there can be talks on the expansion of the operation and on other investments in major projects, such as Cerro Verde II. Inchaustegui Vargas made these statements after holding a meeting with President Fernando Belaunde at the Government Palace, where he went with some high-ranking executives of the American oil company, Occidental. [Excerpt] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 Jul 84 p A-4] 2909

CSO: 3348/489

PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONS, GOVERNMENT ENGAGED IN DISPUTE

Government Position

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 23 Jun 84 p 1

[Text] THE Government of St. Lucia would like to draw the public's attention to a misleading and unattributed article appearing in last weekend's issue of the VOICE under the heading "Industrial Action Being Considered."

The article, which does not carry the name of any individual or organisation purports to represent the stage of negotiations between the Government and the Public Sector Unions from the perspective of only one side of the negotiations. The facts are that the great majority of a 36 point claim by the three Unions has been settled with the only major outstanding issue being that of wages and salaries.

An important compromise has been reached on the moratorium which has been accepted by one major Union but not by the others. Apart from this the proposals of the Government have by and large been acceptable to the Unions. The Government is now doing its final costings in order to convey to the Unions in writing what has been communicated verbally.

It is unfortunate that some minority elements in the Unions are attempting to destabilize the extremely cordial atmosphere which has characterized the negotiations over such a long period of very tough and fair bargaining by giving misleading information on certain aspects of Government's policy of acquiring and retaining critical managerial and professional expertise with the assistance of donor agencies, in order to incite their members and disrupt the negotiations.

An objective appraisal of the situation reveals that the cost of living has declined dramatically from 19.6% in 1980 and 15% in 1981 to 4.6% in 1982 and 1.5% in 1983. The Public Sector Unions after receiving a 57% increase to cover the period 1980-1983 over which there was a 40.7% increase in the cost of living presented claims which called for increases of at least 180% in one case, 60% in another and 75% in the third case all over a two-year period. This two year period embraces the fiscal years 1983/84 and 1984/85 in which Public Sector wages and salaries totalled \$63.7 million or 50.32% of a total recurrent expenditure of \$126 million in 1983/84 and \$62.2 million or 50.22% of a total recurrent expenditure of \$129 million.

However, after the Government's fiscal situation was made manifestly clear to the Unions their totally unrealistic demands were considerably scaled down but still pose a great difficulty for the Government's fiscal position as with a total of 4,600 public servants on its payroll every 10% increase in wages and salaries across the board results in a \$6 million dollar increase in the wage bill per annum and this in a situation where Government's present fiscal situation as pointed out by the Ministry of Finance and Planning and confirmed by the International Monetary Fund and the Caribbean Development Bank is still very weak. The Caribbean Development Bank has given tangible expression to its concern by agreeing to finance a project coordinator, on contract, in the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

It has become clear to all concerned that while some recovery in the economy has taken place that has not yet percolated through to the Public Sector in terms of increased revenues. The Public Sector is therefore placed in the delicate position of having to balance stringent expenditure controls which can have a negative effect on unemployment against increased capital expenditure and industrial stability. The Government has taken the Unions into their confidence on the various difficulties which it faces and is expecting them to take responsible and statesmanlike positions in the interest of the nation.

Union Response

Castries CRUSADER in English 30 Jun 84 p 7

[Text] press release - unions defend their case

the committee of trade unions would like to take issue with the author of the article which appeared in the voice on saturday june 23, 1984 under the caption "government denies union charges" on several erroneous statements made in the course of the presentation.

in the first place the author claims that the only major outstanding issue which remains to be settled is that of wages and salaries is totally false. as far as the unions are concerned the following matters are still in dispute:

a) the period of the agreement -

the unions have proposed a three 3) year agreement and all along it appeared that the government negotiating team were not against this. however, recently the government negotiating team has been suggesting that a two (2) year agreement would be more acceptable.

b) payment of gratuity after ten 10) years of public service - the unions have proposed that it be paid directly to the officer on leaving the service, or that it be lodged in a bank where the individual can use the amount due him as collateral for loan purposes.

the government is sticking to the present arrangement whereby the money is paid to him and the worker can only reap benefits at the age of sixty-five (65) years.

c) an incentive scheme for the public service. the unions have proposed that the system of increments which was discontinued, be reinstated while the other party although proposing a new scheme has failed to work out the details of that proposal.

d) staff orders - the unions have proposed that the offensive clauses in the up-dated staff orders be finalized with a view to introducing the document immediately. the position of the government's team is that this is a matter which could be worked out after the conclusion of negotiations

e) salaries - the unions have interpreted the government negotiating team's last offer to be 1983 84 - 7 percent, 1984 85 - 7 percent and 1985 86 - 10 percent, but so far, the team has not formalised it as a definite proposal.

f) reclassification - the unions have submitted proposals but the government negotiating team has not responded.

It is clear from the foregoing that there are many matters remaining to be settled other than salaries.

to suggest that one of the unions have reached an important compromise on the moratorium question is to attempt to cement discussion thereby creating doubts among members of the three unions. the fact of the matter is that up to this day the unions have been trying

to clarify exactly what the government negotiating team's verbal offer is, to the point of requesting it in writing in february, but without success.

The belligerent attitude of one member of the government negotiating team who is definitely in the minority is one of the major factors affecting the conclusion of the negotiations. he has been able to use his double role to usurp the authority of the chairman and even over-ride his decisions at times.

The unions want to make it clear to all st. lucians that we are not opposed, in principle to the retention of so called critical managerial and professional expertise by government with the assistance of donor agencies.

what we are opposed to is that some of these very same individuals use their big positions to negotiate over 100 percent increase in salary, together with numerous fringe benefits while at the same time trying to deny other public servants a fair salary increase.

For example, for the financial year 1984 85 the monthly emoluments of the Director of Finance and Planning increased as follows

1983 84	1984 85	increase
basic Salary \$4,000.00	\$8,150.00	
\$103.75		
Housing Allowance	800.00	
\$1,500.00	87. 5	

In addition he received a monthly entertainment Allowance of \$100.00, a Travelling Allowance of \$600.00 and other allowances for representing Government on at least eight (8) Bards.

Since the retirement of Mr. Fitz Louisy, the Personnel Division has been without a full-time Permanent Secretary. The Director of Finance and Planning is at the moment carrying out the functions of Permanent Secretary. Personnel in addition to his duties as Director of Finance. For this he receives \$1,444 or 50 of the Permanent Secretary, of Personnel's salary.

Overall a monthly income of \$12,000.00 all Tax Free.

Surely, if St. Lucia is in dire need of critical managerial and professional expertise one would have expected the Director of Finance to advise Government to recruit a Personnel Manager for the \$4,000 basic salary increase he negotiated.

We must point out that the assistance came out of an allocation made to St. Lucia and the country would be better off with two high calibre professionals each devoting equal time to the economy and Personnel Management respectively.

Government Use of Police

Castries CRUSADER in English 30 Jun 84 p 7

[Text] A head of pressure and hostility has started to build up against the Compton Administration and all indications are that the patience and endurance of the people in the face of the present economic crisis is wearing thin.

Last week the Civil Service Association published a Press Release outlining all the stages and details of the current wage negotiations between the Government of St. Lucia and the Civil Service Association. The CSA conceded that so far there were some meaningful improvements in the conditions of service especially in the areas of maternity leave, stand-by allowance, shoe allowance messengers and transfers, but the question of salary increases has remained a sore spot and no agreement has been reached.

The C S A is calling on its members to apply some heavy pressure on the Government's negotiating team. The Committee of Trade Unions which comprise the Teachers Union, the Civil Service Union and the National Workers Union have spoken out against the Government's

negotiating team and the blatant injustice in the contractual terms of contract officers in the service vis-a-vis the ordinary Civil Servants. This situation has upset a hornet's nest among Civil Servants and the level of anti-government hostility is reaching alarming proportions.

In addition to the Civil Service pressure, the police have launched a series of raids on houses all over the island and the members of the public are furious about the terrorist methods used to invade their homes. The police claim that the raids are aimed at discovering marijuana and arms, but the people are visibly angry about the whole exercise.

Meanwhile the Government is attempting to make some contact with the public by carrying out some 'meet the people' tours but the jeep-loads of Police accompanying the Ministers is a clear indication of the growing hostility to the Government on the ground.

Discussion of Labor Unity

Castries CRUSADER in English 23 Jun 84 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text] The politics of small mini-states like St. Lucia abound with ironies. It is now exactly twenty years since a shot-gun marriage of the National Labour Movement N.L.M. led by John Compton and the People's Progressive Party led by Hunter Francois brought about the formation of the ruling United Workers Party, which has held the ring in St. Lucian politics for almost all of the two decades. A further irony lies in the fact that the only time the UWP was booted out of power was in 1979 when the St. Lucia Labour Party looked like an integrated and homogenous party. In fact the SLP later showed that it comprised a rainbow coalition of

varying interests and ideologies. Oddly enough 1984 has furnished the crowning irony with the ruling United Workers Party looking as helpless and incapable of coping with the problems of government as any party ever looked in the course of our political history.

The bottom-line of the UWP coalition of interests is that today the Party is splintered into a kaleidoscope of grievances, regrets, jealousies, frustrations and ladder-climbing. The Party Leader continues his war with the Executive of the party and the in-fighting has taken a new turn with some key persons querying

the distribution of U.S. campaign funds handed over to the party. The upshot of all this is that even after twenty years of co-existence it is still not possible to say that the marriage between the NLM and PPP in 1964 was a successful venture. Naturally this begs the question as to the indices one would use for quantifying success.

Judging from the fact that the UWP has held on to office for seventeen of the twenty years of its existence, this in itself is a measure of success. Similarly, the point could be made that the SLP also held the stage for almost fifteen years before the advent of the newly-formed UWP.

These movements give an almost cyclical look to the power spectrum in St. Lucia. The Gordon era gave way to the emergence of the adult-suffrage party in the SLP and after the SLP had appeared to have outlived its usefulness the uwp grabbed the centre-stage of St. Lucian politics and held it until the SLP scored a people's victory in 1979. The only factor in the equation which complicates the free swing of the pendulum is the arrival of the United States as a power-broker in Caribbean Politics. The uwp was totally discredited in 1979 and Party Leader Compton was for all intents and purposes a "spent force" in St. Lucian Politics.

The geo-politics of the United States saw it fit to breathe life into the Compton clay again and with elaborate planning and design succeeded in putting Humpty Dumpty back on the wall of political power. But the skills required to corrupt the electoral process are essentially different from the skills required to win the hearts of a frustrated people living dangerously near the bread-line. This is why both America and the Compton Administration look so pathetic

and helpless in the face of the current crisis.

The political position is clear for all to see. There is almost complete disenchantment with the government of the United Workers party.

All sectors of the community are unanimous in the view that the government is a total failure and has made U-turns on every possible commitment they had given to the public. Despite that however there is not a clear alternative government focussed in the minds of the people. The existence of two opposition parties, the Progressive Labour Party and the St. Lucia Labour Party has created a division in the overall Labour Movement in the country. The fact that one of the leaders of the P.L.P. has distanced himself from the politics of the people following an electoral defeat has slightly dented the overall seriousness and credibility of the party and left some room open for speculation about the homogeneity of the party. The fragmented quality of the leadership of the St. Lucia Labour Party has also created some uncertainty about the ultimate viability of the organisation. The combination of those factors has left the ruling United Workers Party virtually clinging on to office almost by the default of the Opposition forces.

In practical political terms it is almost self-evident that a united opposition force would sweep the United Workers Party into oblivion for the next two decades if the United States allowed the democratic process its full play. But the situation is so clear that the United States has already lined up "spoiler" candidates and financed them to dilute the single-minded thrust of the opposition and to create an aura of division and

uneasiness in the opposition ranks. This is the pattern of behaviour which the U. S. pursues in the Caribbean these days. In Grenada the word is already around that the

United States want neither the extreme-left N.J.M. nor the extreme-right GULP under Gairy in office.

So they are determined to support a centre organisation or coalition and so both Blaize and George Brisan are beautifully placed to avail themselves of a fortune in U.S. funds to keep out those whom the United States have designated as "dangerous". It is certainly a

travesty of democratic justice to have any country subverting the political system to such an extent that the "wishes of the people" have absolutely currency in their own country. This is the legacy which the United Workers Party has helped to establish in St. Lucian politics and this is the stranglehold that all progressive organisations must dedicate themselves to erasing. If Reagan can decide who should and should not win elections in the Caribbean then the people of these Caribbean States do not deserve the right to determine their own destiny. Adult

Suffrage was a farce and independence a sick joke.

It is against this back-drop of imperialism's iron grip on Caribbean Elections that we must consider the pros and cons of political accommodations.

Barbados and Jamaica have suddenly emerged as surrogates for the United States in the business of electoral skull-duggery. They are prompt to offer assistance to all Caribbean Countries in order to further the designs and techniques for electoral interference. Incumbent governments which benefit from these electoral devices invari-

ably lend support to the process.

The opposing factions invariably cannot get their voices heard in protesting against such interference

this mastery of the Caribbean electoral process was the main thrust behind American's hounding of Maurice Bishop to bring him within their sphere of electoral influence. Once he had accepted the Rules of The Game then they were sure of check-mating him.

In regarding the opposition scenario in St. Lucia the recent history of the parties must come into play. The United Workers Party is essentially a Businessman's party with strong middle class support. Both Labour Parties - the St. Lucia Labour Party and the Progressive Labour Party depend on the workers and trade union support for their power base. The PLP was formed in recent years as a break-away group from the SLP claiming that the SLP had lost its direction and its members were indulging in the same corrupt practices attributed to Compton's Government. The rationale for the existence of the PLP was the contention that the reactionary right wing of the party was not only a damper on any progressive action but was positively obstructing structural change as the leadership became a buffer for the Establishment.

The total eclipse of the right wing of the party was averted only by the defection of Peter Josie from the ranks of the progressives. the reasons for this defection are still unclear although a number of conflicting theories have emerged. Following the defection the PLP moved purposefully forward to establish itself as the alternative government and although the UWP was made to win the 1982 electoral contest it was manifest that the PLP

had easily outdistanced the SLP but even here there were surprises. Josie's last minute rallying of the scattered slp forces did result in the slp providing greater nuisance value than had been anticipated.

Now that the widespread urge to get rid of the UWP government has forced Opposition Parties to reconsider their tactics some fundamental points must be considered;

1. The anti-imperialist fight is the crucial factor in caribbean politics today and requires an integrated and unified force to contain it.

2. That there is no value in an opportunistic "getting-together" for the purpose of removing a regime without the commitment of the organisations to a minimal programme for change.

- 3 That any meeting of minds should be based on a genuine reassessment and an act of contrition from persons whose actions are mutually agreed to have been injurious to the cause of the working-class and the labour movement.

- 4 Any consolidation of the labour forces must settle firmly the question of leadership and not allow this bogey of labour parties to raise its head at this crucial juncture.

- 5 The spirit of cooperation should

reflect the mood and ideas of the committee of national unity which sought such an accommodation when it seemed propitious to do so.

- 6 The models of the NLM and PPP accommodation together with two converts from the slp should be looked at and the cross-over of Rambally in 1982 should be looked at when considering the "opportunism" element in such an accommodation.

- 7 The theme "Can Leopards Change Their Spots" should occupy the minds of the parties.

- 8 The massive electoral fraud in the Red Hearts Election was perpetrated even though an Interim Government allegedly overlooked the activities of the Electoral Commission. With the techniques of deception now refined and tested only a mass expression of the wishes of the people could offset the chances of electoral fraud.

- 9 A strategy must be devised to offset the divisive influence of CIA and superpower manoeuvrings in engineering splits and defections at the most dangerous times.

These are some of the considerations which should inform the discussion which is at present raging at grass roots level with a view to charting the future course of St. Lucia.

U.S. CHARGED WITH SEEKING MILITARY, POLITICAL HEGEMONY

Castries CRUSADER in English 23 Jun 84 p 1

[Text]

This may sound as a strange question to ask St. Lucians, but it is one millions are asking each other throughout the world.

Millions upon millions are concerned about the state of international relations, and the grave threat to world peace which exists today. Never has the world been closed to annihilation through nuclear catastrophe. More dangerous bombs and missiles exist than ever before in mankind's history. Today, bombs and missiles and other nuclear weapons exist which can wipe the face of mankind off the earth, in less than 24 hours.

What's this got to do with us in St. Lucia we may ask, but it's got a lot to do with us - much more than we've ever been told - as we are no longer in a "safe" part of the world where we would not be affected by the bombs of other countries' wars. The effective range of today's nuclear weapons

means that in any world-wide nuclear confrontation, St. Lucia and the Caribbean, and even the most remotely-placed countries or islands, will suffer the immediate after-effects in many more ways than one.

A world war today would not necessarily see buildings being destroyed. Instead, it is more likely that every conceivable living organism - man, animal, plant, insect, etc. - will perish from the nuclear contamination of the atmosphere. A nuclear bomb dropped anywhere on this side of the United States would see every single living being in St. Lucia die quickly and painfully within minutes.

That's how serious the situation is, and that's how much our very lives are threatened while so many of us do not even realize it.

But even with this state of things, our lives

in St. Lucia are even more threatened by the politics of the current occupants of the White House, and their backers in the U.S. military industrial complex. Reagan is the U.S. President that has brought the world closest to the danger of nuclear war. While all evidence points to the contrary, Reagan and his minions in the White House and the Pentagon believe that it is possible for the United States to win what they call "a limited nuclear war" against the Soviet Union and the Socialist Countries. To this end, they have placed 572 extra-deadly missiles in Western Europe to enhance what they call "a first-strike capacity" that is supposed to enable the U.S. to fire "first" on the Soviet Union, "when the time comes". In response, the Soviets have improved their defenses and have enhanced their capacity to make an effective strike on the U.S., taking into account the 572 Pershing Cruise Missiles in Europe, just next door.

Where we come into the picture even more clearly is in considering the us's wish to engage in nuclear war "from europe", in a way that the us itself would not be subject to the bombings, the soviet union and its socialist allies have constructed missiles that have the capacity to hit at various american states, so that the us itself would not escape the holocaust. Reagan is seeking for europe and the rest of the world. in such an eventuality, St. Lucia and the rest of the caribbean would suffer innocently - and fatally

Apart from the nuclear threat, however, we in St. Lucia are also threatened by the reckless approach of the reagan administration to the solution of conflicts in our part of the region. s policies in El Salvador and Honduras, and its hostilities against Nicaragua against the background of the advantageous invasion of Grenada, all indicate that Reagan applies a military solution to problems arising out of social and economic imbalances in this part of the world over the past decades. This is the same policy being adopted in relation to the Eastern Caribbean after Grenada, where Reagan is training a regional army that will be used to stifle the inevitable social uprisings that will come from the grave economic and social crisis gripping our islands in these times. While offering bread-crumbs to the governments under the CBI, Reagan has already put aside \$100 million (US) to fund this proposed army in its initial stages.

Unfortunately, many caribbean people

still believe that the Reagan administration is really interested in assisting the governments of our region to solve their problems.

But the reality is different, as is now being realised in Grenada, where the people actually thought that the Americans had come to save them.

Reagan is more interested in preserving and expanding US military and political hegemony in the region than in aid and economic assistance to the individual states. His record proves this, with its massive over-balance in favour of military assistance in comparison with aid or economic assistance. The Eastern Caribbean states were originally offered a mere \$2 million each under the CBI, while hundreds of millions have been spent on military expenditure and exercises in the region.

This is the insanity which reigns just next-door in the United States. And who will save us from the nuclear and military catastrophe which looms ahead. None but ourselves can, and that is why we have to strive to learn more about the threat which we face and where it comes from.

In this regard, our political leaders in St. Lucia and the Caribbean have an important role to play in making people aware of the nature of the threats to peace and life in our region and the rest of the world. This is the number one question of today, because without peace and with the continuing threat of nuclear catastrophe, our future is doomed.

GOVERNMENT SCORED FOR USE OF ARMED POLICE, SEARCHES

Castries CRUSADER in English 23 Jun 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Excerpts] On Friday 15th June, motorists travelling along the Castries- Gros Islet highway during the night were stopped, and their cars searched by the police. Ostensibly the police were searching for guns and marijuana. Given the recent spate of violent crime in the country, there appears to be some merit in the police action. Closer examination of the incident reveals that there is a more sinister reason, why the police were out there. If one takes note of the type of weapons that were being carried by the police, the age of the officers carrying those weapons, the location chosen, the lack of seriousness displayed by the police, and the recent training they have received, the historical pattern of terrorism, sponsored by the state begins to emerge.

Those of us who followed the early demonstrations of the seventies will remember the police officers dispensing the tear gas cannisters. They were all senior officers in the force. They were family men, of relatively big build. Their age and size did not present psychological hang-ups during their attempts to control the crowd. They were men who themselves had families and were well aware of the value of

human life. The teenagers armed with the machine guns last Friday have no such stabilizing attributes. They were boys who had left school last year, physically small, and since they have no children, it is hard to imagine any one of them using the weapon in his hand with any degree of responsibility. And worst of all these were boys trained by the American Army.

The specific role of an army is to defend ones country from outside interference. Soldiers are trained and conditioned to kill attackers from a foreign country. In normal civilized countries matters pertaining to civil disobedience are handled by the police.

Why then must foreign soldiers be allowed to train our police, and what are they training them in; warfare or civic duty?

It is significant that the Americans have invited themselves to offer St. Lucians soldiers and guns not withstanding that no significant aid was received from them after the passage of Hurricane Allen.

[In 1948 there emerged] a practical plan for subversive activities against governments hostile to U.S. policy:-plan-x. The plan provided for:

1 Organised armed units under U.S. command.

2 Giving assistance in preparing assassinations of prominent persons;

3 Infiltrating U.S. agents for coordinating anti-socialist activities. Two years later President Harry Truman signed the secret P.D no. 68 which proclaimed as a top-priority the establishment of a "world" to the liking of Washington.

The government of St. Lucia is keenly aware of the restlessness in the population. The government has been unable to fulfill any of its lavish election promises. The ranks of the unemployed grow daily as one hotel after the next fails. There is discontent in the service over the large salaries offered to contract officers. And the initiative has been knocked out of the Caribbean basin. The opposition was asked to keep quiet and let the government work. A series of harsh laws curtailing the freedoms of St. Lucians have been passed by the government; the right to march, to wear greens, or to show video in public. Innocent citizens of this

state have been deported without one shred of evidence.

The police carried out the search directly in front the home of the PLP leader George Odum. There is no need to inform Bro George about the type of weapons now in police control. The Crusader has long informed the public about that. If the police were serious about the search they would have done so at an intersection and not a straight piece of road. They would also make sure no cars were allowed to leave the lines, and drive off in the opposite direction to the next intersection. As it were, they were concentrated in front the home of Bro George. As soon as the police were through with a car, the driver would cheerily drive along warning all oncoming motorists, "they searching for guns and marijuana.

The people of St. Lucia must take careful note of this attempt by the government to terrorize them.

Supporters of the government are gleefully telling others, that the next time we going inside. We must not be afraid of the police guns, we must conduct ourselves as sane, rational people. When the time comes to move the government the "guns" will be pointing at them, not us. We must not be afraid.

CDB REPORT CHARTS NATION'S IMPROVED ECONOMY IN 1983

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 9 Jun 84 p 18

[Text]

PRELIMINARY data suggest an improvement in St. Lucia's economic performance during 1983, compared with 1982 when GDP rose by an estimated 2.1%. The main contributions to the 1983 outturn came from the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. So says the 1983 Annual report published by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

The report states that banana exports during 1983 totalled about 54,400 tonnes, an increase of 26.5% on the 43,000 tonnes exported in 1982, and nearly 16% above the 47,000 tonnes forecast for the year. This substantial increase which came about despite severe wind damage to banana plantations in the northern part of the island in mid-September, reflected not only considerable rehabilitation effort and a rise in the green market price for fruit which resulted in an increase in farmers' earnings despite adverse currency movements, but a noticeable improvement in the availability and use of fertilizer, and more widespread adoption of the practice of field-packing of fruit.

Cocoa exports rose sharply in response to the concluding of a favourable marketing arrangement in the U.S. By the end of the second quarter, overseas sales had already exceeded total sales for 1982. Cocoa production at 4,775 tonnes, was 25.3% above the 1982 level which itself was more than 51% above output for 1981. However, cocoa production in 1983 was still below the 6,805 tonnes produced in 1980, and problems were being experienced with coconut mite infestation. The increased output of copra resulted in a rise in the production and sale of edible oils, soap and animal feed.

The higher level of banana exports led to an increase in demand for cardboard cartons from the manufacturing sector and partial data suggest that this rise in demand more than offset a decline

in demand for cartons from other domestic as well as regional users. Preliminary data indicate that output in the textiles/clothing industry increased while output of tobacco products, condiments, beverages, margarine and lard declined. The decline in output of edible fats reflected a fall off in exports to the main market — Jamaica — as a shortage of foreign exchange induced that country to import the cheaper edible oils.

With resumption of economic growth in the U.S. and aggressive marketing by the airlines and the tourism industry, stop-over visitor arrivals in St. Lucia rose by 10.2% to 77,393 during 1983. However, given an apparent decline in the average length of stay of visitors and a reduction in room rates by some hoteliers in order to maintain room occupancy levels, it is not yet clear whether earnings from the industry will exceed earnings in 1982 to any appreciable extent. In addition, cruise passenger arrivals declined by 1.6% to 33,262.

The decline in the rate of increase in retail prices which began in 1981 continued during the year with all-items index rising by 1.5% on average over January to November compared with 4.6% for the full year 1982 and 15% for 1981.

The tight liquidity experienced in the commercial banking system during 1982 and early 1983 eased somewhat as Central Government shifted part of its borrowing activities to regional governments and institutions, and as the policy of restraint on bank loans for consumption began to produce

results.

Total merchandise imports into St. Lucia for the first nine months of 1983 totalled \$78.7 million, 9.8% below the comparable figures for 1982. Total merchandise exports for the same period in 1983 amounted to \$41.1 million, 33.5% above the total for January to September, 1982. Domestic exports increased by 18.1% to \$33.4 million while re-exports accounted for half the increase in total exports. The sharp rise in re-exports resulted from the transfer abroad of equipment and machinery following the completion of the trans-shipment terminal. The decline in imports was due to a decrease in imports of equipment and machinery for construction of the terminal.

The difficult financial situation faced by the Central Government and the statutory bodies in 1982 continued during 1983. Government revenue collections remained sluggish, reflecting a lack of buoyancy both in income tax receipts and in domestic taxes on goods and services, although the new foreign currency export tax and the travel tax apparently produced substantial inflows. Recurrent expenditure continued to grow mainly in response to increase in wages and salaries as a result of agreements made in previous years. In an effort to improve public sector resource management and increase the availability of financial resources for development, mechanisms and procedures were streamlined, new budgeting and programme appraisal methods were introduced, and a national savings committee was established.

CSO: 3298/981

LABOUR ORGAN CLAIMS IMF HAS 'TAKEN OVER' ST LUCIA

Castries CRUSADER in English 16 Jun 84 p 1

[Text]

A strange game is going on in St. Lucia today. The Government is "BROKE"! No funds are available to conduct the day-to-day business of the country. The Prime Minister has already told the nation so many times that there is no room in St. Lucia for himself and the International Monetary Fund together. He said that he would resign if the I.M.F. conditions had to be imposed on the St. Lucian economy.

Last week the Prime Minister was forced to call his Ministers and Top Civil Servants together to make them aware of the critical financial mess that St. Lucia has found itself in. He shrewdly put the onus on them to do something to get the country out of the mess, but the remedies that the Prime Minister was hinting at are the very conditions required by the I.M.F..

The Prime Minister wants his Civil Servants to:

- SLASH THE JOBS OF PUBLIC SERVANTS.
- FREEZE ALL WAGE INCREASE
- CUT ALL EXPENDITURES ON SOCIAL SERVICES

● DAMPEN ALL TRADE UNION ACTIVITY

● CUT DOWN ON ALL HEADS OF EXPENDITURE IN THE BUDGET.

All these are the very conditions that the International Monetary Fund has imposed on the delinquent countries seeking I.M.F funds. It is these very conditions that have led to the FOOD RIOTS in the Dominican Republic and in other Latin American and Caribbean countries.

It appears as if the I.M.F. has already taken over St. Lucia and the Prime Minister is reluctant to admit this to St. Lucians and he is "passing the buck" of imposing the I.M.F. conditions on to his Ministers and Civil Servants.

The Prime Minister was quite clear and unequivocal everytime he promised to resign if things got to the stage where I.M.F. conditionality had to be imposed on St. Lucians. Now he should come clean and let the people know the score!

LANSIQUOT DISCUSSES TRAINING INSTITUTE, OTHER ISSUES

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 9 Jun 84 p 10

[Text]

A National Training Institute is soon to be established to meet the needs of St. Lucian youth. Romanus Lansiquot, Minister of Community Development, Youth and Sports made this disclosure on Sunday whilst addressing 67 graduates of the Third Cycle Training group under the OAS-USAID Non-Formal Skills Training Project, at the Vieux Fort Primary School last Sunday.

GREATFUL

Speaking of Government's plans being formulated for the youth of St. Lucia, the Minister said that his Ministry was particularly grateful to the OAS Project Chief, Dr. Arthur I. Henry and had decided to invite Dr. Henry to help in the setting up of the Institute.

He said that St. Lucia is a "Haven" for industrial development because much of the supporting infrastructure is already in place.

Commenting on the Prime Minister's visit to the Far East, Mr. Lansiquot singled out the distinguishing features of the work ethic of Far Easterners as productivity, efficiency and high standards. He exhorted the graduates to try and adopt such qualities and emphasised the importance of giving, a fair days work for a fair day's pay.

Mr. Lansiquot dealt with what he called a growing tendency on the part of workers to become complacent in the workplace. He said such a tendency was undesirable and "this is not what we need here." Instead, the Minister suggested that the work ethic in the Far East should serve as a model to our youth.

INTENTION

He thanked Marstan Mills and Brabo for assisting the Project in the training programme. Both factories accommodate different batches of

trainees in sewing, silk printing and plastic-moulding modules.

The Minister added that his Ministry looked forward to the introduction of other modules and hinted that Government intends to ask the OAS-USAID Office to extend the project beyond December 1984.

CSO: 3298/981

BRIEFS

MEET-THE-PEOPLE TOURS--THE Government of St. Lucia on Monday began a series of "Meet-the-People" tours of communities around the island. The visits began at Gros Islet where the touring party paid visits to infant and Primary Schools, the Health Centre, Police Station and the general marine area. The party, which will be touring every Monday and Tuesday, includes government ministers, permanent secretaries, parliamentary representatives and other officials. The purpose of the tours is to familiarize the Government with developments taking place in the different communities and for the officials to assess the operations of Government departments which they visit. On Tuesday, the party visited the Corinth Junior Secondary School, the La Guerre and Boguis Combined Schools and the Union Agricultural Station. [Text] [Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 23 Jun 84 p 2]

SAND MINING PROBLEM--LOCAL conservationists have said that a suitable substitute for marine and river sand must be found if indiscriminate sand mining on the island and the resulting erosion of the beaches here are to be stopped. Last month several beaches in the island capital were blockaded from vehicular entry under the authority of the Ministry of Communications and Works. The entrances of parts of the Vigie Beach, Choc Bay, and parts of the Reduit Beach were completely sealed off with cylinders and slabs of heavy cement to prevent entry onto the beach by motor vehicles. Authorities here say that this was done to prevent vehicles, particularly trucks from going onto the beaches to remove sand illegally. Chairman of the Environmental Commission, Mr. Gabriel Charles, who is also a member of the Parks and Beaches Commission said that it was evident, particularly along the west coast that this illegal sandmining was causing erosion to the island's shores. [Sharon Williams] [Excerpt] [Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 9 Jun 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/981

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CHAMBERS' CARICOM STAND BACKED; MAHABIR STANDS FIRM

ONR Reaction

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Jul 84 p 3

[Text] Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) had congratulated Prime Minister George Chambers on his tough speech at the Caricom Heads of Government meeting in the Bahamas on Wednesday.

But the ONR, through its Public Relations Officer Lennox Raphael, in a release on behalf of the party, has warned that while we had to take care of our own, Trinidad and Tobago cannot and should not give up its responsibility and role as the leader in Caricom.

And in a related development, Mr Ramdeo Sampat-Mehta has expressed the view that Mr Chambers might have been justified for his "outburst" at the Bahamas meeting.

Mr Raphael, on behalf of the ONR, said being arrogant and overly aggressive or merely displaying strength on the basis of what appeared to be diminishing wealth was neither leadership nor statesmanship.

He continued:

"The Prime Minister has to work towards healing the apparent rift in the Caribbean among Prime Ministers and much of it leading from the situation in Grenada.

Make Beggars

"Trinidad and Tobago must never, in seeking what is best in the national interest, make beggars of our Caribbean neighbours, but should view the needs of Caribbean people as the basis of a set of priorities, economic and social, which would also assist in solving some of the problems now being experienced by our businessmen and also help to temper the unemployment situation in the country."

Saying mere talk would not solve the problems in the region, Mr Raphael argued we had to get down to the nitty gritty, such as trade, which stimulated employment and led to income generation and economic expansion, and a better quality of life for all.

He added:

"We cannot at this hour use Caricom neighbours as scapegoats. Trinidad and Tobago's problems, its economic and social and cultural problems, have as much, and if not more, to do with the continued mismanagement of our national economy by the Chambers government and by the lack of sensible planning, on political gallantry and responsibility-shirking and its inability to provide us with a functional and workable vision of its future.

Mr Sampat-Mehta, president of the International Law Association who as an adviser to Sir Grantley Adams, the Prime Minister in the now defunct West Indies Federation, added that the situation in the region today more than ever demanded the establishment of a Caribbean parliament.

This suggested body, he explained, would discuss matters affecting the region, arrive at solutions before the Heads met, thereby eliminating the need for "tough talks from any leader."

Mahabir Disappointment With Progress

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 6 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by Niala Rambachan]

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago's delegation at the Caricom summit meeting here is not satisfied with the rate of progress of the Council of Ministers talks taking place concurrently with the heads of government meeting.

Labour Minister Errol Mahabir, this country's chief negotiator at the conference, told the EXPRESS during an interview yesterday that the team was not satisfied with the rate of progress on the talks, aimed at unravelling the knots which have been strangling intra-regional trade for most of the past 12 months.

"The critical issue to determine the future of Caricom is the trade issue which is now before the council," Mahabir said yesterday.

He pointed out that "This council has still not finished its work which should have been concluded before the heads of government conference.

"By today we expected to have a document to be submitted to the heads. For instance, the Demas paper on structural adjustment cannot be finalised unless the trade issues are settled since trade is a critical issue in structural adjustment."

According to Mahabir, the Council of Ministers has been discussing the matter of trade relations for over 12 hours so far and still has not resolved the critical issues.

Yesterday, the Trinidad and Tobago delegation was busy trying to draw up a statement on the Demas paper on structural adjustment which is to be discussed at the heads of government level.

Mahabir said this paper is a prescription for economic readjustment in individual countries and it is up to the countries to individually apply the medicine it recommends.

In the case of Trinidad and Tobago, a lot of steps recommended have already begun to be implemented, including a reorganisation of the Public Service.

Meanwhile, the council has also drawn up a list of outlining a number of sensitive items which should be given preferential treatment in terms of purchase through the applications of the common external tariff.

Goods which have been identified are: automotive products, motor vehicles, cement, tyres, fertilisers, paint, biscuits, confectionery, soap, margarine, rice and steel products.

Sources have indicated that regarding the softdrink trade war between this country and Barbados, the delegation from the latter country has indicated that they are proposing legislation to free up this trade.

According to Mahabir, the council is trying to agree on a timetable for lifting restrictions, but Trinidad and Tobago will have to be assured that the other countries will offer markets for Trinidadian goods before it considers the abandonment of restrictive policies.

He said this country's delegation is also standing firm on its declared intention not to bow to pressure from other Caricom leaders to soften its position on the trade issue.

According to the labour minister, agreement has been reached on a number of less contentious issues, but the question of the removal of Trinidad and Tobago's licensing measures is still being addressed.

Minister of Industry and Commerce Desmond Cartey stated that this country's delegation at the Council of Minister's meeting has drafted a position statement on the matter for presentation to the meeting this morning.

The statement reads as follows: "Trinidad and Tobago will not remove present monitoring system in respect of intraregional trade unless firm undertakings and guarantees are given to it by other Caricom States that they will, subject to existing contractual arrangements, purchase from Trinidad and Tobago products on the list which it has the capacity to supply to the region.

"In addition, Caricom States should strengthen their certification and verification procedures so as to ensure that products from third countries are not merely repackaged and exported to other Caricom States as goods manufactured in the region."

NEWSPAPER URGES PRIME MINISTER TO IMPROVE ECONOMY

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 24 Jun 84 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text] Mr Prime Minister, our Editorial today is addressed to you. We urge you to be good enough to take the time and trouble to read it.

Today our country is in a recession. Some prefer to call it a downturn in our economy. You may have your choice, but in the final analysis it amounts to one and the same thing.

Our economists and politicians have expounded in great detail, from time to time, on the subject of the causes of the problems that we are encountering, but far less is being said about the solutions, which, after all, is what our people are really interested in and concerned about.

On all sides one hears of retrenchment, sees lower company profits, sometimes even losses, falling real estate values, a moribund and bearish fledgling Stock Exchange, industrial unrest, indeed all the characteristic symptoms of an ailing economy.

Over-Heated

Maybe our economy was over-heated and the country and its people did need shocks like the ECO's, heavier taxation via the budget, and whopping increases in utility prices, for example, electricity and telephones, but where is the end of all this gloom and doom?

It does not take a genius to determine that the basis of our economy is oil. Oil is our bread and butter, no matter how much emphasis, mostly verbal, is being placed on an export thrust of secondary industry and on domestic agriculture. Neither of these are or ever will be a major foreign exchange earner.

So first and foremost we must get our oil industry out of the doldrums. We have been asking, for a long time now, for important decisions to be made which are required to re-activate our oil industry.

This is your No 1 priority, Mr Prime Minister, and the third article by our Correspondent "oil man in today's issue makes this point emphatically.

On the other side of the coin are the erosion of our reserves due to the persistent and staggering losses being totted up annually by such as ISCOTT (\$262.2 Million-1982) Caroni (\$394. million-1982) and BWIA (\$113 million-1981) as well as a host of poorly managed State Enterprises.

Priority No 2 must be to reduce or eliminate these losses which our now greatly reduced revenue can no longer afford.

And let us here state that at least in the case of BWIA we have been told of steps which are being taken to reduce deficits.

Larry Gomes

Mr Prime Minister, you are our leader and as such it is time for you to tell the people of this young nation what we are doing about these problems and where we have reached in our efforts to solve them.

When Larry Gomes, the Trinidad and Tobago and West Indies cricketer, lost form and it looked as though his Test career was about to come to an end. He took action and restored his place in the team. Indeed he became Man of the Match!

When Michael Camps experienced rough weather on his voyage around the world he took action and reduced sail, and his efforts were crowned with success.

Mr Prime Minister, people, any people, like to see light at the end of a tunnel but if the light is indeed there, it cannot be seen in this time in Trinidad and Tobago and it is for you to tell us how and when we may expect to emerge from darkness into light. It is not only your divine right, Sir, but it is right for you to do so, and do so now.

CSO: 3298/983

CHAMBERS' TOUR OF TOBAGO EVOKES CONDEMNATION

More on Panday Criticism

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 26 Jun 84 p 2

[Text]

OPPOSITION leader Basdeo Panday declared at the weekend that the greatest struggle in Parliament since the death of the late Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams has been to preserve democracy in the face of what he described as the "growing tendency towards fascism by a parasitic PNM oligarchy."

Panday made the statement at the Alliance Nariva/Mayaro mini-convention held at the Rio Claro Senior Comprehensive School at the weekend. He said the PNM had "reduced the Parliament to mockery and a farce, a parody and a charade, where decisions of a small cabinet clique are brought for rubber stamping." He said the PNM had refused to engage in meaningful debate even in matters affecting the very lives of our people."

Said Panday: "Even the PNM backbenchers are denied the right to participate in the decision-making process. They are not allowed to speak in Parliament. It is a national tragedy that so many potentially ho-

nourable men and women have allowed themselves to be so humiliated and emasculated that they can joyfully participate in their own denigration as they sit in that Parliament voting for measures of which they know nothing, without so much as lifting a finger in protest."

Panday criticised Prime Minister George Chambers for the tours made to the various counties in the country. Said Panday: "In no civilised and democratic society would a Prime Minister be allowed to use taxpayers money for personal joy-riding and political campaigning without giving an account to Parliament." He added: "In any country where there is a truly free Press such undemocratic behaviour would have been condemned and the Press would not have let up until such a matter was dealt with to the extent that the Prime Minister be forced to resign."

Panday said that one of the first acts of an Alliance government would be to grant a licence for the establishment of a second

television station. Said he: "The refusal of the government to grant licences for the establishment of another television station in Trinidad and Tobago is yet another attempt by the ruling oligarchy to destroy democracy in our country."

Panday also spoke about the visit to this country recently by Guyanese President Forbes Burnham. Said Panday: "When Burnham arrived in our country Chambers entertained him with taxpayers money and even held a secret meeting with him. But the act of supreme folly in this clandestine affair came when, after his meeting with Burnham, he was asked by the Press to comment on that meeting. His reply was: 'Why don't you ask Burnham?'"

Said Panday: "Without realising it, he was telling us that Burnham now speaks for Trinidad and Tobago. He is our neve de facto Prime Minister. In no civilised country could a Prime Minister so abdicate his responsibilities, so sell out his country's manhood and remain Prime Minister."

Democratic Action Congress Stand

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 27 Jun 84 p 1

[Text]

TWO resolutions, one demanding that Tobago be given its fair share of the national resources, the other condemning Prime Minister George Chambers for undertaking his current tour of Tobago without the courtesy of informing the Tobago House of Assembly, were passed at the annual convention of the Democratic Action Congress on Sunday.

The first of the resolutions noted that the economic situation in the country has deteriorated because of "corruption, patronage and mismanagement of resources by the PNM Government."

"Tobago, during the boom years, did not get its fair share from the national treasury," stated the resolution. It therefore called on the government "to provide Tobago with its fair share of the national resources as a part-

ner in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago so that the Assembly can continue to work towards the development of Tobago."

The other resolution said that the Assembly, "as the recognised representative government institution in Tobago, is entitled as of right to be informed about the activities of the members of the Central Government in regard to areas of government which are the responsibility of the Assembly."

It therefore condemned "the improper and unprincipled behaviour of the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and called on him to respect the duly elected and constituted Tobago House of Assembly and to cease the abuse of the public treasury for party political campaigning."

GUARDIAN Attack

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 1 Jul 84 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text]

HOW does one describe the behaviour of Prime Minister George Chambers in going to Tobago and totally ignoring the ELECTED Tobago House of Assembly?

Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, Chairman of the Assembly used the word "provocation." But who is Mr. Chambers trying to provoke? Mr. Robinson and the Assemblymen or the people of Tobago?

Quite frankly we consider Mr. Chambers's action as totally unacceptable particularly from a man who has carefully made the point on more than one occasion that he is the Prime Minister of Trinidad AND Tobago, and is fully aware of constitutional responsibility and propriety.

His decision to go to Tobago in an official capacity and talk with village councils from Scarborough to Charlotteville and to rap with Tom, Dick and Harry in Castara, and elsewhere and behave as if the House

of Assembly did not exist, is a scandal of quite enormous proportions for this country's democratic process.

At its simplest, it is incredibly bad manners. But — and this is far worse — it amounts to a frustration of the democratic principles which Mr. Chambers likes to talk about, and the big deal that he makes about "freedom" and "rights".

Whether Mr. Chambers likes it or not, the Tobago House of Assembly is a legally constituted body, whose members were elected by the people of Tobago in free elections.

The fact that the PNM was defeated there by the DAC and the PNM Assemblymen are now in opposition has nothing whatsoever to do with an official visit to Tobago by the Prime Minister. Or should we take it that if the San Fernando Borough Council was under the control of the ULF or ONR, Mr. Chambers's recent visit to the south, would have excluded the Mayor and Councillors?

What Mr. Chambers has done is not even good politics and far from gaining lost ground for his party in Tobago he might well have antagonised even more

than those who voted for DAC the last time.

The Tobago House of Assembly should have been involved in the visit, for they and they alone are the elected representatives of the people of Tobago, and nothing can excuse what has taken place.

A recent PNM study in Tobago revealed the party there to be in very poor shape and indeed one of the recommendations of that report was that the present DEWD supervisors in Tobago be replaced by people known to be supporters of the PNM.

In the light of that report and Mr. Chambers's visit last week which ignored the Assembly, it is difficult for us not to come to the conclusion that what went on last week had little to do with government but was in every way a campaign to regain Tobago.

Mr. Chambers and the PNM are of course quite entitled to mount such a campaign and to make every effort to win the forthcoming Assembly elections.

What Mr. Chambers is not entitled to do is to masquerade political campaigning under the banner of an official visit, and at taxpayers' expense.

CSO: 3298/984

OPENING SALVOS FIRED IN TOBAGO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ELECTION

Analysis of DAC Prospects

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 18 Jun 84 pp 6, 7

[Article by Compton Delph]

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH: OFFICIAL or not, the upcoming visit to Tobago by Prime Minister George Chambers is most certainly going to be the kick-off point for the political campaign by the Peoples National Movement for the November elections to the Tobago House of Assembly.

Chambers, of course, is also the political leader of the PNM, and no matter what the opposition may say, he is sure to try and get as much political mileage out of the visit as he possibly can.

This is understandable. It is the kind of advantage which any incumbent government enjoys, and makes full use of, at times of election, local or central.

As Political Leader, Chambers must know that his party faces an uphill task..... many say an impossible task..... of trying to displace the Democratic Action Congress of A.N.R. Robinson in the Tobago House of Assembly.

If he had any doubts about how formidable that task is, he only has to read the report of his party's general secretary who, in what was supposed to be a confidential document, stated quite forcefully that the PNM was in extremely poor state in Tobago.

In fact, the general secretary has painted such a poor picture of PNM performance in Tobago, that the party will be hard put to retain the present four seats it now holds in opposition to the DAC's eight.

So the fact that the Prime Minister has chosen the present time for his first official visit to the island is not surprising. Indeed, it was almost predictable.

Chambers faced with internal party problems of his own, could hardly afford to take a back seat in the Tobago campaign as he did in the Trinidad local government elections. There are still many who blame his inactivity for the PNM's defeat at those elections.

It is, however, left to be seen what sort of re-

ception he will receive from Tobagonians as he travels the island meeting village councils and community organisations. He may have some very embarrassing questions to answer in his capacity of Minister of Finance for the vast majority of the islanders know of the constant battle Tobago faces in getting funds from the government.

By the time he gets here, his party may have taken a decision about the holding of its annual convention in Tobago. Some critics have said that the decision to come to Tobago for the convention was a political manoeuvre on the part of the political leader who wanted to neutralise a faction of internal opposition to his plans for the party's direction.

However, Chambers is reported to have denied this and has made it clear that holding the convention in Tobago has been influenced only by the fact that the House of Assembly elections are due in Novem-

ber and the convention may be just the thing to put some life back into the party's activities in the island.

Apart from these two major events, what has been of significance is the fact that more and more Government ministers have been finding reasons to visit Tobago since the beginning of the year. And I am not including here Tony Jaccelon, the Minister with responsibility for Tobago Affairs whose weekly visits to the island continue to pass almost unnoticed by the vast majority of the people.

One example of this renewed interest is the visit recently by Housing Minister Wendel Motley and others to Courland Estate which is to be acquired for housing and land distribution to the people of the area.

It came on the heels of the dramatically successful entry of the opposition-backed land co-operative, Sou Sou Lands Ltd., which has not only acquired the Old Grange Estate but has already raised the

\$1.7 million to pay for it by selling lots to the people at \$7,000 each.

Sou Sou Lands' activity in Tobago has even prompted Minister of Agriculture Kamal Mohammed to put in one of his rare appearances for an on-the-spot look at the thousands of acres of land acquired by the government over the past sixteen years and which have remained idle all that time.

But the Courland project is of specific significance since it would affect the people of the Plymouth/Whim constituency now held by Stanford Callender, leader of the PNM in the Assembly.

Callender is the only person who came in for high praise in the "state-of-the-party" Tobago report prepared by the General Secretary and leaked to the Press. It is therefore understandable that his will be the one

enough votes to have influenced the outcome.

In fact, two of those seven candidates failed to muster a dozen votes each and that was the end of the FHM. But not, unfortunately, some will say, an end to Murray himself.

This does not mean that Murray still wields any significant political influence in the island. But recently he has started publication of a fortnightly newspaper, the Tobago Informer which has been taking some wild swipes at the Assembly and the DAC, with Robinson being the prime target.

There have been whispers that Murray and his Informer has the silent backing of the PNM if only until November when the elections are over. Murray, however, is said to still harbour political ambitions and a PNM nomination for the 1986

seat the party will be going all out to retain.

Conversely, it is the seat that the ruling Democratic Action Congress is bent on taking away.

In the first Assembly elections in 1980, Callender won by a handsome majority. His 718 votes were more than the combined total of the other two candidates, Fitzroy Phillips (DAC) 583, and George Joseph FHM 91.

This time around, however, the battle is almost certainly going to be a straight PNM-DAC affair. For the FHM — Fargo House Movement — is no more.

Led by former parliamentarian Dr Winston Murray who some years ago broke with Robinson and his DAC, Fargo House made no difference whatever in those 1980 elections. It contested seven of the twelve seats, with none of its candidates getting

general elections may not be beyond those ambitions.

Another intervening force is the National Joint Action Committee (NJAC) which within recent times has been active in the island. But judging from the response it has been getting at its meetings, even if it decides to contest the Assembly elections, it is hardly likely to make a greater impression on the Tobago electorate than its miserable performance at the Trinidad local government elections.

The prediction therefore is that the DAC will again win in November. Of its eight present members of the Assembly, only one would not be facing the polls again Kenneth Jones who won the Providence/Mason Hall seat with 764 votes to the PNM's Drucilla Frank's 559, is withdrawing from active politics for health reasons.

Appearance of Wall Slogans

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 23 Jun 84 p 3

[Text]

POLITICAL slogans have started appearing on public walls in Scarborough, a sure sign that Assembly elections are in the air.

Four of the slogans which appeared on a concrete wall opposite the PTSC terminal building are anti-Democratic Action Congress, the party which controls the Tobago House of Assembly with eight seats to the PNM's four.

The fifth was addressed to the Tobago representative of Trinidad EXPRESS Newspapers. It read: "Compton Delph, that Guyanese/Express CIA must leave Tobago affair."

Delph, who was born in Guyana, came to

Trinidad and Tobago in April, 1960, and has been a citizen of this country for the past 20 years. He has been a journalist for 38 years.

Another slogan declared: "DAC planning arm intervention," and another charged: "Alliance is planning to land forces in Tobago."

"DAC support apartheid in South Africa," said one, while another said: "Robinson still has diplomatic passport to run anytime like O'Halloran."

Told of the slogans, ANR Robinson, political leader of the DAC and chairman of the Assembly, said they were obviously the work of empty minds.

"They are a set of scared people," said Robinson.

DAC, PNM Activities

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 23 Jun 84 p 1

[Article by Compton Delph]

[Text]

TOBAGO will be the national political spotlight tomorrow with two significant events taking place.

The first of these is the annual convention of the Democratic Action Congress which controls the Tobago House of Assembly. The other is the start of the long-awaited visit of Prime Minister, George Chambers.

The DAC convention is bringing in from Trinidad a 14-man team from the National Alliance, led by Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday.

The Prime Minister, who arrives in the evening, will be accompanied by a ministerial team which is expected to include Senator Anthony Jacelon, Minister with responsibility for Tobago.

Both events are regarded as crucial to the November elections for the Tobago Assembly, which will undoubtedly

be a straight fight between the DAC, led by ANR Robinson, and the PNM, with Chambers as its political leader.

In the first elections to the Assembly in 1980, the PNM was defeated two-one by the DAC, which won eight of the 12 seats.

At about the time Prime Minister Chambers is landing at Crown Point Airport, the DAC will be in full cry at a public meeting at a Scarborough carpark, and one of the main speakers at that meeting will be Karl Hudson-Phillips, Leader of the Organisation for National Reconstruction, which helped form the political accommodation that defeated the PNM at the 1982 Local Government Elections in Trinidad.

This is a clear indication that the DAC will be receiving the full support of the main opposition parties—ULF,

Tapia and ONR—in its Assembly battle with the PNM.

The public meeting comes at the end of the convention, which starts at 10 o'clock in the morning at the refurbished headquarters of the party in Scarborough.

Party Secretary Everette John said yesterday afternoon that apart from Chairman Robinson's feature address, the convention will receive greetings from its Trinidad political partners.

In addition, the secretariat will present its report and the Secretaries of the Assembly will give an account of the work of the division which falls under their portfolios.

Theme of the convention is "Tobago Fights Back for Survival, Self-Expression and Real Improvement in the Quality of Our Lives."

Praise for Robinson

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 26 Jun 84 p 3

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH:
ANR ROBINSON,
Chairman of the To-
bago House of Assem-
bly, has been publicly
hailed as the next
Prime Minister of
Trinidad and Tobago.

"In my view there is no other person who can be the next Prime Minister of this country than ANR Robinson," declared John Humphrey, ULF Member of Parliament for St Augustine, in Tobago on Sunday night.

Humphrey's ULF, along with Robinson's Democratic Action Congress and the Tapia House Movement, have come together to form the National Alliance which, along with the Organisation for National Reconstruction, has been having talks on the formation of a united political opposition in the country.

But of the big issues under public discussion, a major one has been who will be the eventual leader among the leaders

of the four parties.

"Right now, on my platform in Trinidad, I am telling the people that Robinson will be the next Prime Minister," Humphrey told a public meeting of the DAC at the Scarborough Carpark on Sunday night.

"I am supporting ANR Robinson for the leadership because he has the commitment, honesty, integrity, experience and knowledge to lead us out of the hell that the PNM has put us into," declared Humphrey.

"So at the moment," he told a fair-sized crowd which braved continuous rain to listen to him, "we have two Prime Ministers in Tobago. The present Prime Minister is here to tell you who is Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago and we cannot get rid of him before 1986. The other is the Chairman of your House of Assembly, ANR Robinson," he declared.

Humphrey said that

Prime Minister Chambers, who started an official visit to Tobago yesterday, and his government were openly contemptuous of Tobago.

"When Chambers was coming across in the helicopter this morning," Humphrey went on, "Jacelon told him 'Chief, throw out a hundred-dollar bill and make some Tobagonian happy.'"

"But then another minister said, 'No chief, throw out ten \$10 bills and make 10 of them happy.' And yet another minister said, 'No chief, throw out a hundred dollar-bill and that will make 100 Tobagonians happy,'" Humphrey related.

"But the helicopter pilot, who was a Tobagonian," Humphrey went on with a straight face, "turned to the Prime Minister and told him, 'Chief, throw out yourself and make every Tobagonian happy.'"

Humphrey said the story might not be true, but it represented the contemptuous way in

which the government thought of Tobago and Tobagonians.

He said he had read that Chambers was going to Charlotteville to talk with residents about land for housing. But he was fooling the people, said Humphrey.

The Opposition M.P. went on to explain that Sou Sou Lands Ltd, the land co-operative of which he is the architect, has already paid estate proprietor Charles Turpin \$10,000 as a commitment fee for 250 acres of land which was all the land left for housing in Charlotteville.

Turpin, he said, in negotiations with Sou Sou Lands, had specified that 40 acres of the land available at present should be set aside for a wildlife reserve. And he also stipulated that a 30-acre site at Pirates Bay should be preserved.

"Right now, lawyers are finalising the agreement with Sou Sou Lands and Turpin has accepted the \$10,000 commitment fee.

Support for DAC

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 26 Jun 84 p 3

[Text]

THE DEMOCRATIC Action Congress is going to win all 12 seats at the November Tobago House of Assembly elections, removing once and for all "the iniquitous PNM."

This was the confident prediction of the United Labour Front and the Tapia House Movement as they pledged their full support for the DAC in its upcoming election battle.

"Take up arms in the moral and spiritual sense," John Humphrey, ULF Member of Parliament, urged the annual DAC convention in Scarborough. "First battle is the Assembly elections; let us fight and bring home all 12 seats."

His National Alliance colleague Dr Bhoendranath Tewarie, Chairman of Tapia, urged all political parties "to join forces and unite to remove the PNM yolk from our backs."

Nothing less than 12 seats for the DAC at the November elections, he said.

"We need and want you," he told the convention. "Tobago's real option is to remove the PNM government."

Anthony Smart, of the Organisation for National Reconstruction, extended his personal greetings to the DAC, explaining that his leader Karl Hudson-Phillips, was arriving later in the day to speak at a DAC public meeting.

Alliance Help for DAC

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 26 Jun 84 p 5

[Text]

THE joint executive of the National Alliance has set up a special seven-man committee to work out a strategy to assist the Democratic Action Congress in the campaign for the Tobago House of Assembly election later this year.

The decision was taken last Saturday at a meeting in Scarborough, Tobago, attended by 15 members of the Trinidad arm of the Alliance headed by Opposition leader Basdeo Panday. While in Tobago, the joint executive held talks with members of the Assembly. The joint executive meeting was held at the DAC headquarters in Tobago.

The seven-man committee will be headed by Tobago House of Assembly chairman ANR Robinson and will include Panday, Nizam Mohammed, Dr Bhoendradath Tewarie, Stephen Ramsooij, Dr J.D. Elder and Senator Lincoln Meyers. The committee will recommend ways in which the National Alliance can assist the DAC in the election campaign as well as examine the policies and programmes of the Alliance.

The committee will also maintain contact with the ONR to hold discussion on strengthening the accommodation and proposals for a national party.

CSO: 3298/985

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN DRIVE FOR UNIFIED OPPOSITION

Tapia House Leader's Speech

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 24 Jun 84 p 7

[First installment of a speech delivered by Dr Beau Tewarie, Chairman of Tapia House, on the topic "The Political Parties and National Unity" delivered at a recent conference of the National Alliance in Victoria]

[Text]

SISTERS and Brothers of County Victoria, members and friends of the National Alliance, fellow citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, my message this morning is that unity is a necessity if we are to build a more civilized and humane Trinidad and Tobago.

It is a simple message, but it is the truth. United, our country has a long and healthy future ahead of it; divided our nation will flounder in the wilderness forever and we will eventually perish as a people.

United, we can decide rationally how to share the national cake; divided, the economically powerful and the politically influential will always be best placed to pounce on the cake and gobble it up, while the vast majority of us will be left, time and time again, to scramble madly for the crumbs and leftovers.

United, we can work together to establish representative political institutions and insist on justice for all; divided, we can expect corruption, nepotism, patronage and deals to continue to devour the moral fabric of our nation like an incurable cancer.

INTEGRITY

So when I come before you today, to speak of national unity, I am not here to argue for political convenience or simple expediency or even strategic necessity.

Instead, I am making the case for moral responsibility and national integrity and self-respect.

Every generation has an obligation not only for its own time but to the future as well, and thus we must understand that if we fail to unite Trinidad and Tobago solidly, if we fail to weld the many fragments into a cohesive whole in our time, we are inevitably condemning our children to an uncertain future and helping to nurture seeds of discord and civil strife, already sown --

seeds that might one day sprout bloody flowers on some dark future night.

Today, we who do not support the present regime, are left to shoulder the responsibility of national unity because the party which claimed to be building a nationalist movement for all the people of Trinidad and Tobago in 1956, has failed to unite us and has only succeeded in splintering us further and in fostering mutual suspicion and insecurity.

They have gone wrong and after 27 years, two Prime Ministers, six cabinets, many five year plans and many more cabinet-appointed committees, they still cannot hope to put the wrongs right. Thus the burden has fallen on us to do the necessary task. We must see to it that our country which has been derailed off course from its true destiny, is put back on track once more.

BETRAYED

If we do not perceive this to be our task, indeed our moral obligation, then it makes little sense to spend our energies challenging the present regime.

Because this regime is superior in military hardware and can only be shaken by moral force.

This regime which was betrayed the highest aspirations of our people and which has succeeded in transforming us into a depressed, defeated, cynical bunch of individualists, will only be made to yield, when a new movement arises which can make our people believe once more and which can sufficiently fire our imagination to make us hope and dream again.

Before we get there, however, there are practical steps that we need to take in order to give the people of Trinidad and Tobago the sane, reasonable and trustworthy alternative that they are searching for.

We understand now that the multi-party system that we have inherited is not an accident; it

simply reflects a multi-ethnic society with a multiplicity of interests.

But we must also understand that the clamour for opposition unity which grew very loud in the 1970's and still remains to be fulfilled in the 1980's, reflects a genuine desire on the part of progressive elements in the society to pull a fragmented nation together.

In other words, the call for opposition unity is more than simply a call to the opposition parties to divide up the seats.

In fact, it is a demand to the leaders of the various parties to put country before party, to put nation before section, to put the will of the people before personal ambition.

If, therefore, we are not sensitive to the motivating instincts behind the call for opposition unity, we are only going to make a mess of things with the end result of being obliterated at the polls in 1986 or before.

The question we must address is how can we proceed from where we are to build a party that can win the trust of the nation and so have appeal to a wide cross section of our citizens -- a party in other words, that has the capacity for forging a genuine national unity?

It is clear that the Alliance of 1981 failed to convince the country that we had the coherence and/or the durability to govern the country effectively.

In other words, although the Alliance sought to sell the country coalition politics as a viable option there is no evidence to suggest that the country actually bought it.

As we know only too well, inroads were made in traditional opposition constituencies by both the PNM and the ONR while we failed to make any impact in PNM strongholds.

The Alliance was an electoral accommodation involving ULF, DAC and Tapia that sought to do three things (1) reduce competition among opposition groups (2) respond to calls for opposition unity as a means of coming to terms with PNM solidarity (3) consolidate the 1976 opposition forces to stave off the emerging threat of the ONR, which was a new force in 1981.

In 1983 another accommodation was achieved, when the ONR, which failed to secure a single seat in the 1981 general elections joined forces with the Alliance parties to compete with the PNM on a one-on-one basis.

The result was an Accommodation victory in the local government elections of 1983.

This victory has made the idea of an accommodation for national elections very attractive to some.

The rationale seems to be that if you add the votes of the combined opposition and can pick up a few percentage points more by presenting a united opposition front we have a good chance of breaking through in some of the marginal seats to secure the majority necessary to form a new government.

I would be extremely cautious about making such assumptions, however, because as we know, national elections are a different kettle of fish from local government elections.

In national elections a political party must amply demonstrate that it possesses the necessary coherence and durability to govern the country effectively and an accommodation or coalition cannot do this.

COALITION

Trinidad and Tobago does not have the experience of coalition politics as, for instance, many of the European countries do.

Coalitions in this country are more often covert arrangements, as now exist in the PNM or even in the ONR, rather than open coalitions.

The Alliance that we have been building since 1981 is the closest thing to an open coalition that Trinidad and Tobago has ever known, and what we in the Alliance need to do now is to proceed with the task of building a single national party through an open coalition of interests.

We have to have a single leader and a coherent policy and programme mutually agreed upon; and we have to move beyond simply dividing up the seats. That may have been good enough for the local government elections of 1983 but, for the general elections soon to come, we need to make a clear advance and present the country with a superior alternative.

We have to create a genuine national party in Trinidad and Tobago in which multiple interests are clearly visible and where all sections of our community can perceive credible enough guarantees of their interest.

It is only a party like this that can stimulate the national imagination and provide the necessary voltage to electrify the country politically once more.

To this end we make another call to the ONR and NJAC to join us in the task of building a truly national party in order to unite our people, remove the old regime, and take steps to secure our national future.

CRITICAL

Sisters and Brothers of the Alliance, I believe that our situation in Trinidad and Tobago today is so critical that we cannot afford to waffle and beat around the bush.

I believe that the truth is absolutely necessary if we are to make any headway towards peaceful transfer of power and with this in mind I want to say a few words about the ONR NJAC.

I believe that we in the Alliance have bent over backwards to accommodate the ONR both in the 1983 local government elections and after.

We made many concessions to the ONR in 1983 and indeed, gave some a new political life by the concessions that we made.

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Jun 84 pp 11, 12

[Conclusion of an address by Dr Beau Tewarie, Chairman of Tapia on the topic "Political Parties and National Unity"]

[Text]

My position, therefore, is that we in the Alliance must work towards a comprehensive coalition of the existing political forces as far as that is possible.

We cannot force anyone to join us in our struggle, nor can we force anyone to help us build a new national movement to save our country. But we must try, it is our moral duty.

The question of leadership has to be settled. It cannot be postponed indefinitely and we cannot escape dealing with it.

We are fortunate that we have many political leaders who are willing to engage in the struggle for a better Trinidad and Tobago.

But the question of who will best carry the torch of the new national movement cannot be settled in a backroom.

It must not be fixed up. To fix up a leader, means that other valid leaders and their constituents will not be morally bound to the movement.

As a result dissent could lead to break up of our party by any disgruntled leader and even a part of his following.

If, on the other hand, we choose our leader by a fair and representative process in an open forum for all to see, then all, regardless of who he or she might be, will be morally bound by the decision of the party. And if anyone chooses for whatever reason to withdraw, then that person would withdraw at his/her own political risk leaving our party intact.

MORAL AUTHORITY

An open contest for leadership means that the will of the people will prevail and is a means of purchasing security for the party as a whole. A fixup in a backroom is a blueprint for instability and factionalism within our party.

Moreover, a fixup leader will have no moral authority or credibility in the country as a whole.

We, in Tapia, have proposed an electoral college made up of equal numbers of delegates from every party that wishes to be part of the new national movement as the means of giving every aspiring leader a fair break; and as a means of ensuring that the leader is mutually agreed upon by all parties.

That proposal and several others are now being discussed at the level of the Alliance executives. A leader mutually selected by equal numbers of representatives from all parties in an open forum, fairly representative of the various political communities and comprising a cross section of the population at large, is likely to assume the office of political leader with a great deal of moral authority and credibility.

And we need this desperately if we are to challenge the PNM successfully.

The party must not be afraid of an open contest for leadership. An open contest will not hurt our party, in fact it will strengthen it because, after the contest is decided, we will

be united as we have been united before.

Moreover, we will be ignited and inspired and we need that kind of momentum to take us into what will certainly be a torrid election campaign.

COHERENT POLICY

Any leader who is afraid of an open contest for leadership is no real leader. But I have no doubt that our very able leaders will rise to the occasion in a most statesman-like fashion and offer direction to our party and our country.

Of course a leader may choose not to contest, not because he/she is afraid, but because he/she may wish to throw his support behind someone else. That is quite valid too and as long as it is done in the open, it would be all right and will not undermine the credibility of the elected leader or the party.

The third ingredient we need in our new national party is a coherent policy and programme which must be worked out by putting our heads together. Our policy and programme must be settled by bargaining, compromise and consensus rather than by ideological imposition.

We cannot be hung up on notions of ideological purity, we have to simply work out a programme that is in the best interest of the people of Trinidad and Tobago and that will lay the foundation for securing our nation for many generations to come.

PRIMARY AIM

We call for a national party to consensus because that is what the country needs now. We cannot continue on this ludicrous course of confrontation and division.

We have too much to lose; and so much to gain if we can create the forum for a national consensus within our party and throughout our nation at large.

We emphasise the open selection of a political leader; open bargaining about policy and programme and argue for a comprehensive coalition because how we proceed to build our new national party is of greater significance than the mere existence of a party that calls itself a national party.

Parties have called themselves national before, they have fixed up the faces of the leadership and the candidates to represent a cross-section of our community.

Yet these parties all failed to become national parties and consequently were never able to challenge the government seriously.

We must attempt to build now, a party whose interest is not in forming the opposition. Our primary aim must be to secure the reins of power in order to bring decent and humane government to Trinidad and Tobago.

One of the principal aims of our party must be to unite our people because this is necessary if our party is to focus on rescuing our country from the disastrous path on which we are now embarked. To be able to present ourselves as this kind of alternative, we must do the three things that I have mentioned:

(1) pull together a comprehensive coalition of political forces.

(2) settle the question of leadership openly and fairly.

(3) reach a national consensus on a coherent & integrated policy and programme.

Brothers and Sisters, any party which claims to have all the answers to our problems or the best talent among its leadership is misguided and simply arrogant.

All the parties in the political arena at the present time have something to offer this nation: ULF, DAC, Tapia, NJAC, ONR. Talent exists in every party and every political community; so do commitment, nationalism and humane concern for our country.

Every party has its particular approach to solutions for our country's problems.

What we need to do is to pool our resources now.

If the political parties cannot unite; if the political communities cannot compromise; if the political leaders cannot rise to statesmanship, what hope is there for our country? What future is there, for any of us?

NATIONAL SURVIVAL

In a country that has been torn apart by ethnic alignment and by ethnic, communal and sectarian parties, we have to recognise that a political party can itself be an agent of change; because the kind of party we fashion can affect or modify political behaviour.

If the Alliance were to succeed with the help of the other political parties here, to build a genuine national party in which multiple interests were clearly visible, a party in which any person could align himself/herself and feel secure regardless of their ethnic background, a party that was prepared to nurture a democratic culture — don't you see that such a party, and only such a party, could succeed in mashing up the old allegiances

based on captive sectional interests?

That such a party would create the conditions for trust and usher in a new era of politics here?

If we could create such a party then no government will be able to win an election by fixing the boundaries because our people will have broken from the prison of ethnic political allegiance.

We have to build a party like that sisters and brothers of the Alliance and we have to be prepared to work hard towards such a goal. As I said before it is our moral responsibility and moreover, it is a necessity for our national survival and well being.

AGAINST PNM

There is a whole section of our country, that is disaffected and does not exercise its voting rights. We have to make bridges to these people who have lost faith in politics and the political system. Our party must also not be against the people who now support the PNM.

We must understand how they got there and how hard it is for them to make a clean break. We must be sensitive to the emotional investment that is involved.

But we must take pains to build a bridge so that those among them who have the moral courage will be able to cross over to us without loss of dignity. We cannot build a humane civilisation if we do not take steps first, to build a sensitive and humane party.

We must never be against the people regardless of who or what they support. We are all brothers and sisters under the skin and we are all together, in the same boat.

We are against the PNM and what it stands for — cynicism, corruption, naked

power, insensitivity, political paralysis, economic mismanagement [word illegible] of a noble vision, expediency, contempt for the little people, spiritual death. These are the things that characterise the PNM regime today.

Quick Sand

Sisters and Brothers, we must build a new national party in this country, we cannot settle for less than that. We must embrace the little people in every nook and cranny of this land and we must fight for justice for all our people so that when our time is past we can say to our children that we, in our time, were committed to a noble vision and made a real contribution to society and country.

Let us build a party that we can all be proud of; a party that will be able to take us out of this quick sand, on to the mountain top.

Sisters and Brothers, this is 1984 and in sixteen years we are going to be entering the twenty-first century. If we are to survive as a people in our small island-state, we need to be futuristic in outlook; we have to be prepared to deal with the world as it is and will be.

We in Trinidad and Tobago have moved from British colonialism to PNM neo-colonialism and today, we have to live with super-power confrontation and adventurism in our Caribbean sea.

Economically, it is becoming more and more difficult to cope internationally. Not only is the international competition fierce, but some of the largest nations in the world are pursuing active protectionist policies and the large supra-national companies are proving to be more powerful than many governments.

If we are to cope with this kind of world, which is the real world, we need to settle some of the gnawing problems at home immediately.

We cannot continue on the path of confrontation at home; we cannot be perpetually engaged in little guerilla wars in Trinidad and Tobago.

We see the emergence of a genuine national party as a major step on the road to national unity, national stability and greater freedom and flexibility in the international arena.

We must not miss this golden opportunity to make a break with the past now and to take our country and our people forward.

We have to do it; it is our duty to do it and, God willing, we will do it.

Alliance Call for Talks

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 25 Jun 84 p 3

[Text]

ALLIANCE Parliamentarian Winston Dookeran declared yesterday that the prospect of a national party of opposition groups forming the next government of Trinidad and Tobago was real and urged meaningful discussions on national unity.

Dookeran warned that the formation of a national party must start with unifying the various elements in the society and not so much with the selection of a leader.

Dookeran delivered an address during the morning session at the National Alliance mini-convention held at the Rio Claro Comprehensive School in Rio Claro yesterday. The Convention was chaired by County co-ordinator, Senator Dr Brensley Samaroo. The Chairman of the Nariva-Mayaro County Council, Councillor Razard Ali, presented a report on the activities of the Council.

Dookeran said: "The issue of the formation of a national party has little, if anything, to do with administrative structures and constitutional guarantees. There can be no sheltered position for any one of any unit in that national party. Each one must deserve his place on the basis of participation in a programme of action rooted in the community life of our people and committed to the intro-

duction of a new social and political environment in Trinidad and Tobago."

He said this new order was based on national unity, economic democracy and political liberty.

Dookeran said: "The formation of a national party therefore, must start, not with how to select a leader, but rather with how to capture the imagination and to unify all the elements that make up this plural society in Trinidad and Tobago". He said this could be done on the basis of the programme of action and adherence to a common set of policies and programmes.

Dookeran, a former UWI history and economics lecturer warned against short cuts, quick fixes, approaches and ready made answers.

He issued a call to all teachers, intellectuals, workers and patriotic groups to join the struggle in finding a common ground for the national party. Dookeran said the major areas of concern for the programme of action would include party policies, electoral strategies, parliamentary programmes, the process of accommodation and a wide variety of other disciplines.

Dookeran said: "In all these areas, the national party has already been engaged and tremendous work has been done since the general election of 1981".

CSO: 3298/985

CHAMBERS SCORED FOR NOT GRASPING CONCEPT OF OPPOSITION

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 Jun 84 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

SOMETIMES we wonder whether the Prime Minister understands that an Opposition is necessary in a democracy.

The question arises from the disregard, some would say thinly veiled contempt, that he displays for the party in opposition in Parliament.

It is true that the ruling party has a large parliamentary majority, and that guarantees the passage of the laws that it wants to make.

But it is in Mr Chambers's own interest not to do anything that would bring the House into ridicule no matter how tempted he and his colleagues are to vaunt the power of their position.

The recent issue over the cost of the Prime Minister's San Fernando tour is a case in point. While the Opposition was guilty of carelessness in ascribing the wrong date to the tour, Mr Chambers's reaction was, to our mind, somewhat childish.

Nobody could have faulted him had he had some parliamentary fun about the date at the Opposition's expense had he quickly gone on and given the answer to the question asked without goading the Alliance Opposition into anger.

As it was a lot of parliamentary time was consumed with melodramatic nonsense, the scoring of cheap points, and Mr Chambers should know that the tenor of that occasion only served to give ammunition to those who would undermine the democracy in which we live.

We suppose there are people who would give the Prime Minister points for deigning to answer the question at all, since his predecessor studiously avoided answering questions posed to him by members of the Opposition.

But for Mr Chambers to behave in that manner would be evidence, once again, that he is trapped in the old style, whatever his

protestations that he does not intend slavishly to follow Dr Williams's footsteps, since, presumably, he intends to cover the ground in his own way.

Moreover, posing questions to the Prime Minister is one of the conventions that we have accepted with the Westminster system and Mr Chambers, in a display of his own spirit, should be eager to refurbish the practice as one means of putting some distance between himself and the bad old ways.

The point is that whatever the PNM majority, the Opposition has a large constituency and, in addition, it provides checks and balances on on government's actions which should redound to the benefit of the country, including those who have voted the present government into power.

So what we are asking of Mr Chambers and the other government members of the House is not simply a spirit of magnanimity, although that is always welcome, but an appreciation of the role and, in-

deed, the worth of the Opposition in the affairs of the country.

We suspect that that worth is not often appreciated by the public at large but that may not be so much an indictment in itself but, once again, an example of how Dr Williams managed to tarnish its image by innuendo and outright vilification over the years.

To be fair, there was a time when the Opposition did not need much help in tarnishing that image, given its own divisiveness and incoherence. But since then it has made great strides in putting its house in order.

The present Opposition, after all, comprises three parties who, responding in part to a demand for opposition unity, have banded together to present a common front and have brought to the House a level of debate and, indeed, commitment that we have not had in the past.

Those who do not see this either have their own political axes to grind or they do not understand the

difficulty, some would say "impossibility" of being the party in opposition in Trinidad and Tobago.

There are all kinds of historical, ethnic and patronage considerations that have contributed to the PNM's stranglehold of power in the country since Dr Williams decided to "let his bucket down," and during that time the government has gone out of its way to make things as hard as possible for the Opposition.

As such, it is a wonder that anybody at all is drawn to the politics of opposition, and some credit it is due to the men and women who put their private lines on the line to provide an alternative way of thinking and doing.

It may be that part of the overall attitude is that people, including those who should know better, put too much emphasis on winning, so that one gets the impression that, as far as they are concerned, the losing party should pay up their deposits and go home.

ONR, 'SURVIVAL AT STAKE,' MAKES APPEAL FOR FUNDS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Jun 84 p 1

[Text]

ORGANISATION for National Reconstruction (ONR) really needs the money.

In a letter to party members, Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips, Political Leader, put it more bluntly: "The party's survival is at stake."

The letter stated:

"Since November 1981 your party has been operating under extreme financial pressure. This has resulted from a large debt due to activities to develop the party before the 1981 General Elections that remains unpaid; uncollected membership subscriptions from the majority of the membership and the increased costs of running the party due to expanding services and commitments.

"The party's survival is at stake. We are threatened with immediate legal action if we do not satisfy the demands of our creditors, who until now, have been extremely patient."

Mr. Hudson-Phillips added that despite the party's best efforts to increase its income from all types of fund-raising ventures, "we have been hardly able to meet our recurrent expenses far less make a dent into our outstanding debts."

The ONR has asked its members to bring their subscriptions up to date and to donate additionally "to save you and your party from extreme embarrassment and to pull us out of the hole that we find ourselves in."

CSO: 3298/986

DONALDSON CALLS FOR PNM AUTONOMY, FREE FROM GOVERNMENT

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Jul 84 p 1

[Text]

A GOVERNMENT Minister has called for urgent action to ensure that the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) is not controlled by the Government.

Addressing yesterday's annual conference of the Diego Martin East Constituency of the ruling PNM, National Security Minister John Donaldson said the PNM must "very soon, immediately, without delay institute procedures within the party whereby the party must itself have the means for generating financial support" to sustain it through the good and bad times.

The main sources of revenue, he disclosed, were from ministers, parliamentarians (Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate), Councillors and Assemblymen which amounted to approximately \$40,000 a month.

The conference was held at the Balisier House headquarters of the PNM and among those attending were the parliamentary representative for the area, Mrs. Norma Lewis-Phillips Minister in the Ministry of Health, and Senator Anthony Jacelon, Minister in the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Donaldson said: "In my view it is not satisfactory because if you have few Ministers, less money; few members of Parliament, less again; few people in the Tobago House of Assembly, less again."

"If, God forbid, you are not in power as a party, no ministers, no parliamentary secretaries, less money again."

What should concern them as members of the party, Minister Donaldson advised, was that the small group which contributed to the party's coffers, might see itself as the group within the party that sustained the life of the party, rather than having the party groups and the party members see themselves as the real sustaining strength of the PNM.

Minister Donaldson, in opening the conference, warned:

"You have to watch that. Never, never, let those that you have representing you assume that on their shoulders alone rests the support of our party."

"Don't let us ever believe that were it not for our \$40,000 a month into the party, the party would be in trouble. Never let us get into that frame of mind because this is the surest method of losing the party to the government and therefore making the party as an institution irrelevant."

"I wish you will come up with ideas which in a very short time will have the effect of promoting the freedom of the party; we want to free the party from possible control by the Government."

"I can say that... I am part of Government. I am saying we as party members should ensure that the party is free of the control by the Government, so we who have given birth to the Government could, with honour, discharge responsibilities that an ordinary parent discharges."

HINDUS CONTINUE IN STEPS TOWARD NEW UNITY

Plans for Meeting

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 25 Jun 84 p 7

[Text]

DISCUSSIONS surrounding the licensing of Hindu marriage officers and the 1985 Hindu religious callender will take place when the Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad hold a joint historic meeting on Wednesday.

Pundits and officers of these two Hindu organisations have decided to meet in a joint session to set the tone for Hindu co-operation among all existing Hindu bodies, according to a news release from the Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha.

The meeting will take place at the Maha Sabha headquarters under the chairmanship of Dr Omah Maharajh, President General of the Maha Sabha. The Vishnu Hindu Parishad's officers and pundits will be led by Mrs Rajwantee Teeluckdharry, President General of the Parishad and Sunmath Bajnath, the secretary.

Teeluckdharry succeeded her husband as head of the Parishad when Pundit Teeluckd-

harry died at a New York hospital.

The release stated that the Maha Sabha and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad have been quietly setting the stage for this joint meeting at which matters of mutual interest will be discussed.

Another area of mutual interest of both organisations is the licensing of Hindu marriage officers. According to the release, Pundit Mahadeo Sharma, head of the Maha Sabha pundits, has indicated that Vishwa pundits could acquire their licences through the Maha Sabha thereby eliminating a lot of tension between both organisations.

It is also expected that the question of joint religious services and shared facilities will be discussed at the meeting.

Commenting on the up-coming meeting, Sat Maharaj, Secretary General of the Maha Sabha, said: "The Maha Sabha has been holding quiet talks with all Hindu groups that hold national perspectives. We will continue to work towards Hindu unity."

Report on Proceedings

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 28 Jun 84 p 64

[Article by Camini Marajh]

[Text]

A NEW era in Hinduism in Trinidad and Tobago was entered into yesterday when two of the country's leading Hindu organisations - reputed arch-rivals - met in a joint session at the Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha headquarters, St Augustine to discuss "Hindu unity" and the "unifying of all Hindu groups."

High ranking officers of the Maha Sabha and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad convened the historic meeting, which got underway before a large cross-section of pundits and other members of the Hindu community. It was chaired by President of the Maha Sabha, Dr Omah Maharaj.

Maha Sabha Secretary General, Satnarine Maharaj, said the meeting was held with a view of eliminating areas of disagreement and tension that have kept the two Hindu organisations apart.

Maharaj, who delivered the keynote address said: "In Trinidad and Tobago several Hindu cultural and religious organisations are working, but less than half a dozen may be in action. These institutions are

not in harmony with each other. Their existence is more or less for some narrow ends. It also creates problems and divide the Hindus."

Stating that the meeting was called to discuss unity, as distinct from a merger, Maharaj went on: "A worldwide danger which Hinduism faces today is the challenge of conversion from well organised and well financed world religions, like Christianity and Islam."

"In the face of the onslaughts," he said "of organised, institutionalised and well greased machinery of such religions, the Hindu religion is defenceless, specially when it is practised by a minority outside India."

Maharaj, who stated that a merger at this time might be premature, declared that "Christianity and Islam have mounted deeply penetrating propaganda in favour of their respective religions and subtle attack on the basic tenets of Hinduism."

Another problem, he said, arose out of "our own conflicts and infighting. When it is raised from public platform it becomes self-effacing and self-defeating."

He said there were several other "weaknesses with which we suffer. We are losing the knowledge of Sanskrit and Hindi and other Indian languages which hold the key to a deeper understanding of our scriptures."

Maharaj added that the formal training of pundits and other preachers of Hinduism was critical to the survival of the Hindu religion in Trinidad and Tobago.

The following areas of co-operation were agreed upon at yesterday's meeting: (a) The 1985 Hindu religious calendar was ratified and it was resolved that all future Hindu calendars should emerge out of joint deliberations, (b) It was agreed that in 1984, Diwali will be celebrated on October 24 and that this date be declared a public holiday, (c) The Maha Sabha will recognise Vishwa Hindu Parishad pundits for the purposes of marriage licences under the Hindu Marriage Ordinance and (d) That the leadership of both organisations shall meet at regular intervals to iron out areas of tension and discontent and to evolve a strategy of unifying the smaller regional Hindu groups.

CSO: 3298/986

MEDIA CHARGED WITH DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIANS

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 25 Jun 84 pp 12, 13

[Article by Noor Kumar Mahabir]

[Text]

AN ADVISORY Committee on Broadcasting (ACB) has recently been formed to review matters relating to broadcasting and for monitoring the content and quality of radio and television programmes.

In its study the ACB will, no doubt, discover, in the electronic media in particular, a serious case of racial discrimination in its programming. With reference to the large proportion of white American films on Trinidad and Tobago Television (TTT), Raoul Pantin of the EXPRESS has written:

"The insidious truth about much of TTT's programming, and it is something few people have the guts to talk about, is that it is also racist. How could any responsible government in a multi-racial country like Trinidad and Tobago sit back and allow one minority race to dominate its television programming is beyond me?"

But while the respected journalist had noted discrimination between blacks and whites on the screen, he had refused to

see the ethnic prejudice against Indians in the society which is consequently reflected in the media in general. It is the eminent Barbadian novelist, George Lamming, who had the guts to say:

"This is the time for honesty, and it is only honesty to say that the Indian has been held in great contempt by many a Trinidadian of other racial origin. The negro middle-class has been particularly guilty..."

Communication expert Ramesh Deosaran has argued that in a pluralistic society like Trinidad where there are no institutions like a Race Relations Board or Human Rights Commission to referee or monitor race and cultural relations, the media has a critical role to play. But when it is claimed that the media itself is guilty of such a crime, it is a horse of a different colour.

At a forum on the state of local culture in Trinidad and Tobago, Hans Hanoomansingh, well-known radio and TV personality, argued:

"Indian cultural expression is subjected to

tokenism from the state; a stand-offish attitude by the non-Indian citizenry while Indo-Trinidadians are in a state of psychological crisis in relation to the institutions of the country."

The theme of tokenism has been picked up again and again, even in a letter to a daily newspaper allegedly written by a non-Indian. The letter-writer contended that if the nation is serious about responding to the call for a cultural boost then it must, among other things, pay attention to "the scant courtesy paid to Indian cultural forms."

TV critic Carl Kowlessar has calculated the percentage of Indian cultural programming on TTT's two channels and has come up with the result of 1.25 per cent. He then asked: Would 1.25 per cent justify a complaint of tokenism? Especially when the 1980 CSO statistics states that over 40 per cent of Trinidad and Tobago's population is of East Indian derivation?

Of course there are the seasonal programmes on the electronic media and special Sunday

supplements in the press on the day of Eid, Diwali, Phagwa, etc., but the Indians' call is for a more integrated and pervasive approach. Outside of the ethnic slots on the broadcast media, the Indian artist is not seen or heard. In fact, he becomes the reality of the protagonist in Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man".

It is with justification that TTT could announce at the opening of its daily schedule that "this is the land of steel-band and calypso". But when it adds "limbo" to its itinerary, TTT is showing both favouritism to African culture and also a blatant denial of East Indian cultural contributions to the nation.

At no time on its "Sign On" programme has Indian background music ever been heard. In its still-pictures TTT has never made use of Indian festivals in Trinidad like Eid-ul-Adha, Ramleela, Hosay, Kartik-e-Nahan. Again, TTT is guilty of discrimination against Indian artistes in its time-files; not even sparing use has been made of local songsters like Sundar Popo, Lakhon Karria, and Kamla Lalchan who have some of their lyrics in English and who have attempted to fuse the rhythms of East and West.

TTT and the media in general have rendered much disservice to the Indian community through the insensitivity of depicting them as Trinidadians with a distinct cultural heritage. In 1975 Moean Mohammed, a presenter of programmes on radio, was reported to have said that the exposure given to Indian cultural activities was in no way a reflection of the proportion of Indians in the country.

He went on to say that, with the exception of the EXPRESS, East Indian activities were

virtually unreported in comparison with other sections of the community. Yet in 1984 the same situation of little or no coverage continues to frustrate the efforts of Indian cultural organisations. There is the secondary schools Sanskritik Sangam, for example, which stages annual inter-school competitions in the form of songs, story-telling, quizz, debating, etc. This year's public speaking topics were listed as:

● The exodus of Indians from their traditional religions.

● The options facing Indians in Trinidad and Tobago.

● The present role of the media in promoting Indian culture.

Four winners have been selected to represent Trinidad and Tobago in India and New York in a cultural educational programme. It would be interesting to do a comparative analysis of the press coverage of the Sangam's activities and the biennial Music Festival which does not include any Indian items.

The accusation of discrimination against Indian culture in the media borders dangerously close to an attack of racism, as evident in the query: Why are no Indian males seen in romantic positions in commercials as compared with other non-Indians? There was also the affair of Ricky Singh, the *Caribbean Contact* editor whose work permit was revoked by the Barbadian Government. There were queries of tokenism, even omission on the part of the media:

Much noise has been made about Leslie Pierre and *Torchlight*, about Allister Hughes, etc. How come nobody is shedding a tear for Ricky Singh....?"

The separation of even a small number of persons of Indian extrac-

tion at an age when lasting impressions are most easily formed, from the debasing influence of caste and heathenism, is in itself a gain; but when it is considered that this is to be done in a country so far removed as Trinidad from the land where those influences are rife, and that all other ties to that land are severed at the same time, it will not appear too much to predict that this asylum may prove to be the cradle, so to say, of a local Indian population, Indian that is in descent and natural characteristics, but English in education and feeling (Governor of Trinidad to Secretary of State, July 6, 1857.)

It was felt by a large section of the Indian community that because he was a Guyanese Indian the press looked the other way. And in an interview with Dr Rupert Roopnarine, a WPA leader, in a newsroom in Trinidad, about the political state of Guyana, there is an accompanying photograph, not of Dr Roopnarine, but of Walter Rodney.

The charge of racism in the media is really a charge of bias media-content rather than of discriminative recruiting of staff. For in the print and broadcast media there are reporters who bear surnames like Ma(ha)raj, Diptee, Rambaran, Ali, Narine, Khe-lawan, Mohammed, Kolasingh, Latchman (Lyder), Khan, Kallipersad, Bissoondath, etc.

But these probably because of fear of self have tended to look without rather than within, at others rather than themselves. Black scholars have argued that no person can be healthy, complete, mature and honest if he must deny a part of himself. And internationally acclaimed poet and playwright, Derek Walcott has stated quite decisively that: "A writer dies

inside when he betrays, like a paid spy, the rhythms of his race".

Critics on Indian culture wonder if artistes like Torrence Mohammed and Freddie Kisoosoon would take their cue from Peter Minshall's "Callaloo" and turn the stream of Indian culture into the mighty confluence of the Trinidad stage. Because "integration" does not mean that the Indian

must shed his racial and cultural personality altogether, but rather that he should adapt to alien elements, harmonise contradictions and create new patterns while, at the same time, not losing sight of his true identity.

It is interesting to note that the only two large portraits of Indian artistes in recent years have been sketched by two non-Indians: Aubrey Adams, in a rare treat, has written on H.A. Adesh (Sunday Guardian); and Kathy Ann Waterman on the dancer, Baby Susan (Sunday EXPRESS).

Journalists Arti Jan-
kie and Ramdath Jagesar must be given credit for their contributions on Indian culture in the press. Yet most of the reporters in the media continue to be urban-based and to represent the middle-class strata in the society whose values have been borrowed from Euro-American

countries.

Speaking on "The Need for a Second Television Station in Trinidad and Tobago", Senator Samaroo charged that the provision of separate shows for different ethnic groups is an impediment in the plan to "weld the races into a developed society." He advocated that there should be more "mixed shows". Yet disc jockeys like Dave Elcock, for example, who has already been accused of ethnic discrimination, continue to debar listeners from hearing Indian music on their programmes. In this respect Joe Pires should be highly commended for playing Indian background music on his morning programme, "Farming Today".

Presenters of any ethnic origin should, according to Senator Samaroo's reasoning, take example from Linda Maniedeo's "East Meets West" in which she juxtaposes Indian musical items with other non-Indian pieces, thus keeping in tune with the racial "mix" in Trinidad and Tobago.

By definition, local culture, that is to say, national culture in Trinidad and Tobago "is not American dominated culture or African dominated culture or an Indian dominated one, but a heterogeneous culture, demanding equal treatment and respect".

And Indian culture in Trinidad and Tobago is but a segment of that whole.

But Indian culture even in India is a constantly changing, dynamic force, evolving, imbibing, assimilating and even being enriched by diverse peoples and cultures. In Trinidad, it would have to adapt under the conditions of rapid change to the new environment, needs, values, and demands. Whereas the older generations experience New World realities with Indian sensibilities, this generation of Indians is faced with the task of trying to reconcile the ambiguous nature of their culture with the problematic nature of their "Trinidadianess."

Most cynics argue that the Indians in Trinidad are a passive, complaining group who have not been able to galvanise themselves into the establishment of a "community media" like a newspaper, for example, designed especially for that particular community which has special needs and interests. Applications for the setting up of a television and radio stations have been made but have been refused by the Government.

If an Indian cultural organisation wants its own radio station, why should it be denied that?

UNION SUCCEEDS IN STOPPING GOVERNMENT RETRENCHMENT MOVE

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 23 Jun 84 p 7

[Text]

THE National Union of Government and Federated Workers said it aborted a move by Government to re-trench 1,144 workers in the maintenance section of the Ministry of Works, Maintenance and Drainage.

Selwyn John, General Secretary of the union said his union was successful in cutting down the number of workers who would have been retrenched to 271 at a meeting with Ministry officials last week.

He said additional discussions would be held with the Ministry to prevent the retrenchment of the 271 workers.

John was speaking at Labour Day celebrations held by the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress at the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Trade Union Hall on Tuesday.

He said that the turnout at the celebrations was a warning to employers as workers had shown their interest in trade union unity and that they were prepared to struggle.

John said that there were people who felt that the struggle of workers was centred in Fyzabad, but there was also a struggle by workers in the North.

His union, he said, was prepared to offer the hand of unity and was concerned about workers on the picket line including workers at Grell, Lever Brothers, Bermudez and Texaco.

He added: "Workers have been faced with an enemy in 1984 - the employers who have united themselves against the workers. The only way to meet the challenge is through a united effort."

CSO: 3298/987

GOVERNMENT, MANAGEMENT, LABOR SCHEDULE JOINT TALKS

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 24 Jun 84 p 1

[Article by Kathy Ann Waterman]

[Text]

TRIPARTITE talks between government, management and labour under the chairmanship of Dr Zin Henry are to resume in mid-July.

A major subject to be discussed will be the finalising of a document on labour, costs and prices. This was disclosed yesterday by Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives.

"The intention of those discussions," said Mahabir, "is to take note of the extent to which prices, wages and salaries have increased in Trinidad and Tobago over the last decade when prosperity prevailed." He added that such talks were of considerable importance because of the downturn in the economy, as a result of the global recession and the decline in production and revenue from the petroleum sector.

"In a situation of persistent decline," he said, "in national domestic production and economic growth, the standard of living for all is threatened."

It is expected that a "concordat" on the subject of wages and prices will be achieved.

In the next few weeks, Mahabir will be engaged in considering public comment on two bills for which the dates for comment by the public have now closed. They are the Occupational Health and Safety and the Redundancy and Severance Benefits Bills.

At the same time, legislation will be drafted to amend the In-

dustrial Relations Act "to give effect to agreement reached at the tripartite level and also to implement Cabinet policy decision in a number of areas," Mahabir said.

These areas include the cancellation of certificates of recognised majority unions at the instance of a stipulated majority number of workers in a bargaining unit; effective date of recognition certificates; membership in good standing; balloting for certification purposes and cessation of industrial action after a stipulated period.

Tomorrow, at 1:30 p.m., discussions between Texaco Inc. and the Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU) will resume at Riverside Plaza under Mahabir's chairmanship. Topics for discussion include industrial agreement on new working arrangements for workers in the bunkering and berthing section and a clause on contract labour. There will also be an update on discussions based on requests concerning craft consolidation.

One matter not directly connected with negotiations but on which the Minister expects response is the position on the seven dismissed workers.

Meanwhile, on Friday, the Minister met with OWTU and Lever Bros. whose workers took strike action last month. The two parties were requested to submit details on new positions, if any, concerning the new industrial agreement.

REPORT ON TRADE, EXPORTS--PETROLEUM STILL NO 1

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 23 Jun 84 p 27

[Text]

EXPORTS of petroleum and petroleum products are still the contributory factor towards this country recording a favourable balance of visible trade.

In the latest statistics released by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) of the Ministry of Finance and Planning, it is stated that the petroleum sector accounted for 80.3 per cent of total export for the period January to April this year.

According to the CSO's bulletin, exports in the period under review amounted to \$1,606.2 million of which \$1,569 million represented domestic exports while imports totalled \$1,444.8 million.

Excluding petroleum, imports amounted to \$1,437.5 million and exports were worth \$316.2 million.

A favourable balance of visible trade in the sum of \$161.4 million was therefore recorded for the review period.

This corresponded with an adverse balance of trade of \$566.4 million recorded for January to April last year when total imports were \$2,482.6 million and total exports were \$1,916.2 million of which \$1,833.6 million represented domestic exports.

Principal commodities imported during the review period were cereal and cereal preparations — \$67.2 million; fruits and vegetables — \$53.5 million; dairy products and eggs — \$51.1 million; meat and meat preparations — \$37.1 million; and feed for animals — \$28.9 million.

This section accounted for 19.7 per cent of total imports compared with 12 per cent during the same period in 1983.

Major items of export falling in the section were sugar and sugar preparations — \$39.6 million; coffee, tea, cocoa and spices — \$5.1 million; cereal and cereal preparations — \$2.1 million; and fruits and vegetables \$1.4 million.

A comparison of total exports showed that chemicals increased by \$40.8 million. However, there were decreases in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials of \$314.1 million; machinery and transport equipment — \$38.6 million; manufactured goods — \$16.6 million; and food and live animals — \$2.8 million.

The CSQ noted that during the review period, excluding the petroleum sector, Caricom agreement imports valued \$93.8 million and domestic exports amounted to \$22.5 million.

POPULATION 'EXPLOSION' PREDICTED; PLEA MADE FOR FUNDS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Jul 84 p 1

[Article by Kit Roxburgh]

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago faces a massive population explosion — a doubling of its present 1.1 million — in the next 25 years while family planning funds seem set to be heavily cut back this year onwards.

In a near desperate measure, United States Ambassador, Dr. Melville Evans, is being asked by this country's Family Planning Association (FPA) to cable U.S. President Ronald Reagan to intercede on the nation's behalf, because American money is the largest source of income for the FPA.

This year, Trinidad and Tobago received more than \$550,000 through the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) which is largely financed by the U.S.

The government of this country has been giving the FPA only \$110,000 a year since 1977.

"But the birth rate has been alarming since 1975," said FPA president, Mr. Emile Elias, yesterday. Mr. Elias is honorary treasurer of the IPPF.

The country's birth rate is now about 50 per cent higher than the target set by the government and the FPA in 1968.

CAUSE FOR ALARM

It could be higher. One of the FPA's greatest cause for alarm is that the Central Statistical Office (CSO) has not been able to supply the accurate records of births since 1980.

The CSO, according to the president of the FPA, has not been given the required information by Registrars of birth and deaths in the most highly populated areas in the country ... areas that account for an estimated 70 per cent of this country's citizens.

What the CSO said was cause for concern: in 1980 the population grew by 18,000, birth and death considered. Death rates have been showing a decline. In 1961 the figure was 8.1 per thousand people. By now it has dropped about two points. People are living longer and more children are being born.

In 1960 the birth rate was 39.1 per thousand. This dropped to 25.4 per thousand people in 1975 — then the rate began to zoom again. The country's economic growth caused the IPPF to freeze aid to Trinidad and Tobago in 1981, it was felt that other countries had greater need for more funds.

Now Trinidad is in trouble over abortions. Not here, but in other

nations that get aid from the U.S. for family planning.

President Reagan is heavily axing US aid for family planning to Third World countries on the grounds that some of the nations use the money for legalised abortion, to which the U.S. is opposed.

DROP IN BUCKET

This could mean a quarter of the IPPF's grants to Trinidad and Tobago's FPA being slashed ... at a time when the association has had to curtail its information and education programmes through insufficient funds.

The FPA last year, through fund raising drives, got \$800,000. That along with some small fees for services such as pap smears and the government's drop in the bucket (State grants accounted for only eight per cent of what the FPA basically needs) carried some prog-

rammes along.

But a concerted effort to get accurate figures from the registrars so that a strong case can be brought to the government and the people about the startling neccessity for family planning are what the FPA needs.

Mr. Elias said yesterday that Dr. Evans, who he described as a strong advocate of family planning, will be asked to inform his government that Trinidad and Tobago does not use IPPF funds for the legalised abortions.

He also hoped that Health Minister, Dr. Neville Connell, can urge this country's government to grant at least \$300,000 a year for family planning.

It is a grave situation, particularly in view of the present economic situation," he stressed.

CSO: 3298/987

BRIEFS

OWTU, PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONS--The Oilfields Workers Trade Union has pledged its support to the public sector unions in seeking "just demands for increases to offset the effects of inflation on workers' incomes while at the same time maintaining job security for all public sector workers." The OWTU also called on the government and the Chief Personnel Officer to negotiate in good faith with all public sector unions and in particular to start negotiations with the joint negotiating team representing the PSA, TTUTA, the Police Association, the Fire Services, the Postmen's Union and the Prison Officers Association. The OWTU adopted the resolution at a labour day rally on Tuesday. The union said that all employers, both in the private and public sectors, wish to introduce wage freezes, wage pauses or restraint, while pursuing policies of reducing labour costs by way of retrenchment. The union said that this would have the effect of reducing the workers' standard of living and putting additional persons on the breadline. The OWTU also adopted a resolution pledging support for the efforts of the joint trade union grouping at uniting the trade union movement. The union also supported the decision to hold the third joint cossabo forum to deal with the issue of trade union unity. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 23 Jun 84 p 6]

CSO: 3298/987

BRIEFS

FOUR NEW AMBASSADORS--Four new ambassadors were appointed yesterday. They are as follows: Francisco Paparoni to Peru; Rigoberto Henriquez Vara to Spain; Hector Vargas Acosta to Chile; and German Lairer to Yugoslavia. [Summary] [PA080405 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 21 Jun 84 p D 9]

TWO NEW AMBASSADORS--The Senate's Permanent Committee on Foreign Policy has given its approval for the appointment of Venezuelan ambassadors to Haiti and the Dominican Republic. They are: Retired General Jose Gregorio Gonzalez Rodriguez and Clavijos Ostos, respectively. At a senate session held last night, authorization to appoint Gonzalo Sanchez as ambassador to St Lucia was also requested. [Summary] [PA130305 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 3 Jul 84 p 1-17]

NEW AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS--The Venezuelan Government has appointed new ambassadors to Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Barbados, and Saint Lucia. The new ambassadors are: Luis La Corte to Colombia, Abel Clavijos to Dominican Republic, Mortiz Eiris Villegas to Jamaica, Jose de Jesus Osio to Barbados, and Gonzalo Sanchez to Saint Lucia. [Summary] [PA142307 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1518 GMT 14 Jul 84]

46 OFFICERS RETIRE--Forty-six officers retired yesterday including 6 division generals, 17 brigade generals, 3 rear admirals, 4 captains, 8 national guard colonels, 3 army colonels, and 1 air force colonel. Of the six division generals, three belong to the army--Alcalde Alvarez, Eduardo Calderon Godoy, and Luis Jose Silva Tirado; one to the air force--Oswaldo Jose Plazola Gilly; and two to the FAC [Armed Forces of National Cooperation]--Jose Enrique Berthe and Landys Ferreira Zambrano. [Summary] [PA142130 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 30 Jun 84 p D 16]

CSO: 3348/497

END